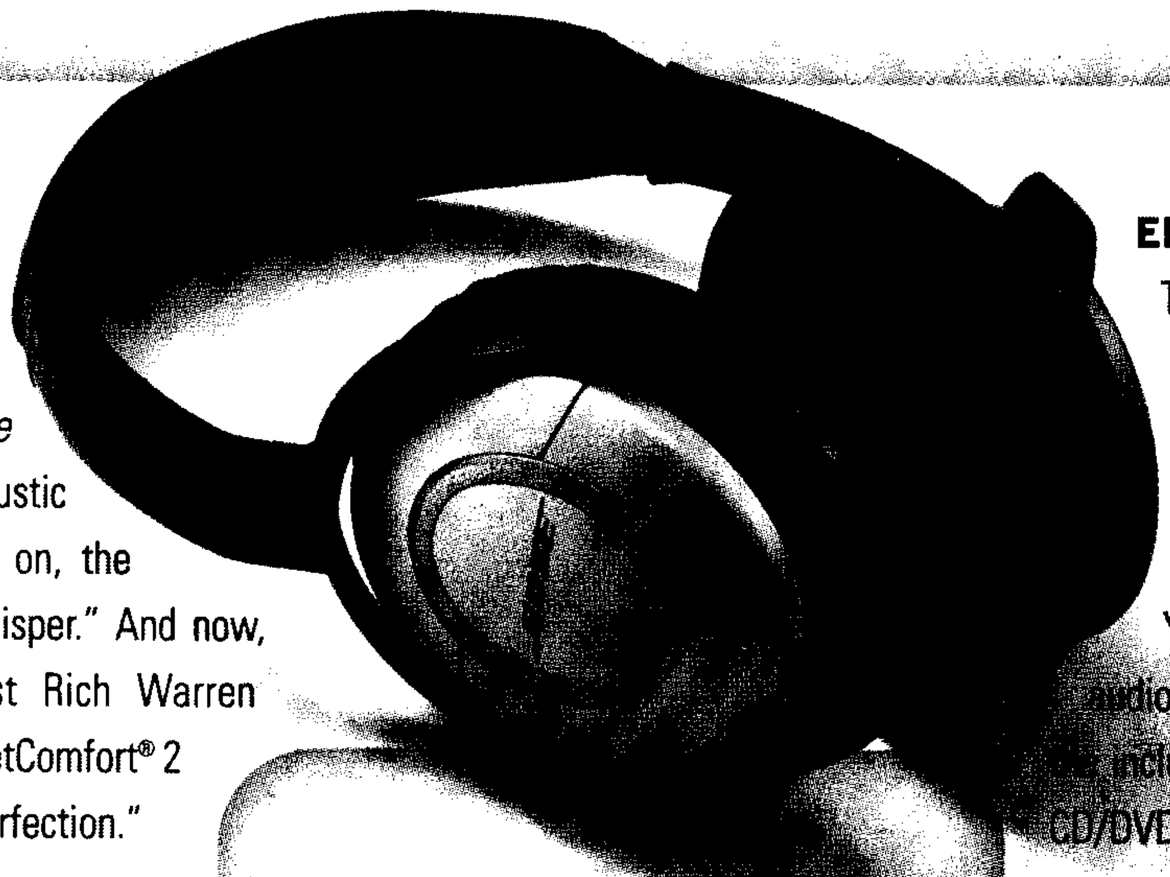
No. 1099
6 February –
19 Feb 2004
£1.30

# PRIVATE EYE

## HUTTON REPORT IN FULL

# HEADPHONES THAT OFFER UNMATCHED NOISE REDUCTION AND AUDIO PERFORMANCE. WHAT COULD BE BETTER?

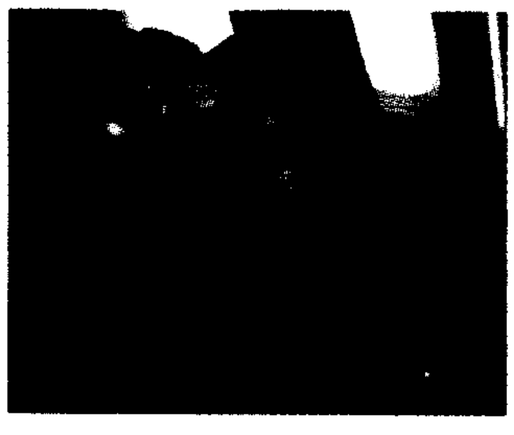
# THE NEW AND IMPROVED MODEL.



According to *CNET*, our original QuietComfort® headphones "set the gold standard." The *Boston Globe* wrote, "with the Bose Acoustic Noise Cancelling headsets on, the airplane roar became a whisper." And now, respected audio columnist Rich Warren declares that our new QuietComfort® 2 headphones "improve on perfection."

**INTRODUCING THE NEW QUIETCOMFORT® 2 ACOUSTIC NOISE CANCELLING® HEADPHONES.**

**ACCLAIMED NOISE REDUCTION.**
We originally designed the QuietComfort headphones to make air travel more pleasant. But headphone owners soon started telling us how well they work in other noisy places – trains, buses, offices and homes. U.S. patented Bose® technology



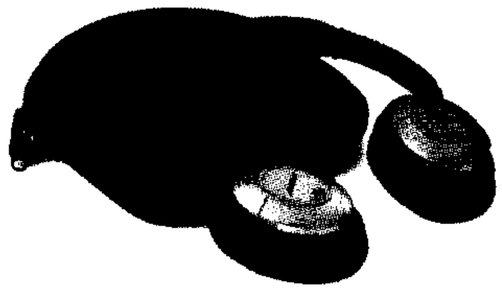
electronically identifies and dramatically reduces noise while faithfully preserving the music, film dialogue or silence you want. The *Philadelphia Daily News* says that "Even in the noisiest environment, wearing these phones creates a calming, quiet zone for easy listening or just snoozing."

**ENHANCED CONVENIENCE.**
These new headphones are so lightweight and comfortable, respected columnist Rich Warren finds "It's easy to forget they are on your head." You can use them without the audio cable to reduce noise. Or attach the included cord and listen to portable CD/DVD/MP3 players, home stereos, computers and in-flight entertainment systems. When you're done, the new fold-flat design allows for easy storage in your bag or briefcase.

**TRY THEM FOR YOURSELF – SATISFACTION GUARANTEED.**
We don't expect you to take our word for how dramatically our new headphones reduce noise, how clean and full they sound or how comfortably they fit. We invite you to try them for 30 days. If you can live without them, return them for a full refund. It is that simple.

Call 08000 85 85 72 and ask about our **10-month payment plan** with no interest charges from Bose.* And discover the kind of performance that has made Bose one of the most respected names in sound.

**OUR BEST-SOUNDING HEADPHONES EVER.**
The improved audio technology inside our new QuietComfort® 2 headphones delivers sound so real, even the subtlest nuances can come shining through. As audio critic Wayne Thompson notes, "Bose engineers have made major improvements." The highs are crystal clear. The lows reach out and envelop you. *CNET* reports "All sorts of music – classical, rock and jazz – sounded refined and natural."



**CALL 08000 85 85 72**
**QUOTING REFERENCE 3735**
*For information on all our products:* ***www.bose.co.uk/3735***

*Mr/Mrs/Ms/Miss*_____

*Address*_____

_____ *Postcode*_____

*Day Tel (_____)_____*
*(optional)*

*Eve. Tel (_____)_____*
*(optional)*

BOSE®
Better sound through research

*Return Coupon to: Bose Ltd., Freepost EX 151, Exeter, EX1 1ZY. No stamp necessary.*
*If you do not wish to receive mailings from carefully selected companies, please advise us.* (QC2)

*Instalment payment plan available on credit/debit cards only and subject to status. Your credit/debit card will be charged each month, with 0% finance charge from Bose. In the event of a late payment, credit/debit card company interest charges may apply. Instalment payment plan not to be combined with any other offer or applied to previous purchases.. Price and payment plan subject to change without notice. Delivery subject to product availability. ©2004 Bose Corporation. All rights reserved. Quotes reprinted with permission: David Carnoy, *CNET*, 29/5/03; Jerry Morris, *Boston Globe*, 24/10/99 on the original airline headset; Rich Warren, *News-Gazette*, 19/5/03; Jonathan Takiff, *Philadelphia Daily News*, 29/5/03; Wayne Thompson, Portland *Oregonian*, 18/4/03.

# Gnome

## The Report Of The Lord Gnome Inquiry Into The Circumstances Surrounding The Report Of The Lord Hutton Inquiry

WHEN I was asked to inquire into Lord Hutton's investigation, my initial impression, based on findings of a number of newspaper articles, was that he was an extraordinarily capable, diligent and courageous lawyer who would not hesitate to examine the evidence surrounding his case in exhaustive detail, and to reach his findings without fear or favour.

In the course of my investigations, it has been repeatedly put to me that Lord Hutton may have wished "subconsciously" to assist the prime minister in absolving himself from any blame whatever in this matter, and his ministers and advisers likewise.

However, having myself examined his report, I am now forced to conclude that there was nothing "subconscious" in Lord Hutton's wish to assist the prime minister. He was fully aware of where his duty lay, which is why he "sexed up" his report by pinning all the blame on the BBC and letting Blair off the hook completely.

*© The Gnome Report 2004.*


**PRIVATE EYE Live!** **INCREDIBLE CD OFFER**

*See page 35*



**EDITORIAL**
6 Carlisle Street, London W1D 3BN. Tel: 020 7437 4017.
Fax: 020 7437 0705. **Email:** strobes@private-eye.co.uk
http://www.private-eye.co.uk

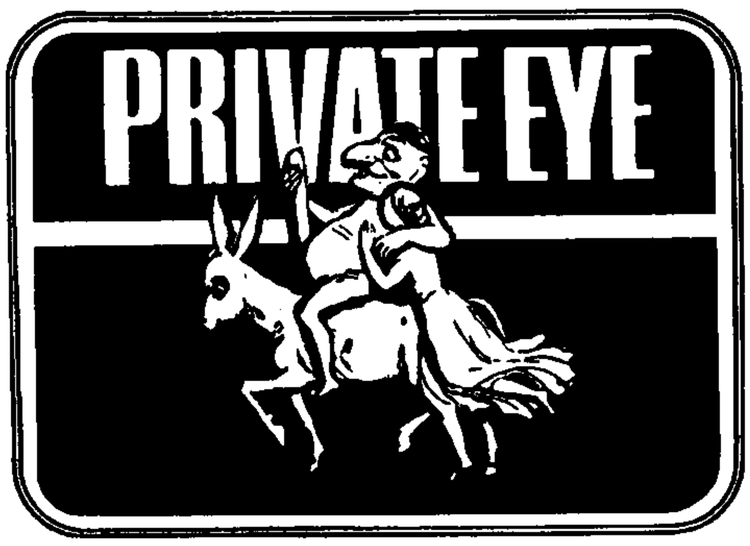
**PRIVATE EYE SUBSCRIPTIONS/SALES**
PO Box 326, Sittingbourne, Kent ME9 8FA.
**Subscription enquiries: 0870 750 1714**
Fax: 01795 414 555. Overseas: 01795 414 871
**Special Reports:** 0870 750 1711 **Books:** 0870 750 1712
**Email:** private-eye@galleon.co.uk

**SUBSCRIPTION RATES**
£21 per annum. Europe and Eire £29. Airmail (rest of world) £35. Cheques/POs to Private Eye. Mastercard/Visa.

**ADVERTISING**
Display: 020 7878 2303 Classified: 020 7240 9129

**Published** by Pressdram Ltd, 6 Carlisle Street, London W1D 3BN. **Printed** by BGP Ltd, Bicester OX6 7QZ. **Distributed** by P.E. Distributions, 6 Carlisle Street, London W1D 3BN. 020 7437 4017.

ABC


## Hutton dressed as sham


- Widgery to whitewash: Focus on Hutton 4
- Kelly's zeros: Fleet St predictions in full 5
- Browned off with Gordon: In the Tearoom 6
- Brussels Sprouts on Marta the martyr 7
- Another doctor commits suicide 10
- The Lord Hutton's Prayer: St Albion 18


## BIRT'S REVENGE: A VERY BLAIRITE COUP

**ALTHOUGH most BBC staff were shocked by the sudden resignation of Greg Dyke, there was at least one senior executive who wasn't in the least bit taken back: Caroline Thomson, Auntie's director of policy and legal affairs, who had already predicted at the end of last year that heads might roll in the wake of Hutton.**

On 29 December, when pressed about the possibility of high level resignations, Thomson told interviewer Eddie Mair: "It [the BBC] does not rule them in, or out. The BBC will see what Hutton says and then decide what is the appropriate course of action to take on it."

At the time Thomson appeared to be speaking out of turn – her comments directly contradicted those of Dyke himself, who had all but ruled out any high level resignations a few days earlier. Her comments also infuriated many colleagues. One senior BBC employee was quoted in the *Mail on Sunday*: "In such a tense situation it is important to know that the person going out there to bat for you is 100 percent on your side. With Caroline Thomson there is a clear conflict of interest and she should stand aside from all matters relating to Hutton."

The alleged conflict of interest is Thomson's marriage to Roger Liddle, an influential policy adviser to Tony Blair at 10 Downing Street.

Caroline Thomson's role as the Beeb's director of policy straddles the worlds of government and broadcasting, and some wonder how she maintains the balancing act. She has volunteered that the BBC's regulatory structure – in which its governors uphold the organisation's editorial impartiality – is "out of kilter with modern fashions of regulation".

This opinion is shared by Liddle's old Downing Street colleague Ed Richards, a "new" Labour apparatchik who drafted the communications bill while working as Blair's "media expert". Richards wants the BBC to be regulated by Ofcom, in common with the commercial sector – a move favoured by Rupert Murdoch because he believes that such a move would eventually force the Beeb to abandon popular television programme making. By happy coincidence, last year Richards left Downing Street to become a senior partner at Ofcom and take charge of its wide-ranging "independent" review of public service broadcasting.

Before his stint at No 10, Richards worked for two years as John Birt's head of corporate strategy at the BBC. He is still a thoroughgoing Birtist, and had a stand-up row with Greg Dyke at last year's Royal Television Society conference in Cambridge.

**MEANWHILE, if the BBC thought it had seen the last of Birt, it had better think again. He now works at No 10 (as does Roger Liddle and as did Ed Richards until recently). And another of his mates, Mark Byford, is now acting director general of the BBC – only a few months after being promoted, with the support of Caroline Thomson, to be deputy director.**

Byford has long been the favourite of those in the Beeb who want a less stormy relationship with Downing Street. He had the backing of Birt and several of the BBC governors back in 1999 when Greg Dyke was chosen as DG. Earlier, Birt had sacked Sam Younger, the head of the BBC World Service, to create a vacancy for Byford.

As another ex-head of the world service, John Tusa, said at the time: "The fact is that the BBC has appointed to the most senior post in the nation's voice to the world, a domestic broadcasting manager who has no knowledge or experience of the world service, no understanding of its complexities, no sense of what constitutes international journalism or broadcasting, either at home or abroad."

*"Bloody repeats"*

Will Wyatt, a former head of BBC Broadcasting, described Byford as "too obedient, too prosaic, long winded, needs to lighten up".

Just like his patron John Birt, in other words.

Lord Birt is now in charge of "blue sky thinking" for Tony Blair – the man he once helped to draw up a "command and control" system for running the Labour party, similar to the hated template he had introduced at Portland Place. There is no doubt Birt wants his protégé to succeed Dyke. But this can only be achieved if the right chairman is imposed.

Who might that be? Step forward former treasury mandarin Terry Burns, now Lord Burns and chairman of the Abbey National. Burns is one of Birt's oldest and closest friends: the two go on walking holidays together. He is also a bit of a sucker for Birtist corporate bollocks: hence last year's rebranding of the Abbey National as "Abbey".

Although Burns has no knowledge or experience of broadcasting, he does have the ear of senior Blairites (including the PM) as well as Birt. Last year Tessa Jowell appointed him as the "independent adviser" to her inquiry into the renewal of the BBC charter. Now Birt is urging his friends in high places to give Terry Burns the BBC chairmanship.

If this happens, Burns will probably support Byford for DG over the claims of more popular and impressive candidates. It seems incredible, but four years after John Birt's unlamented departure from Portland Place, the two top jobs at the BBC may soon be held by his cronies.

In retrospect, Greg Dyke should have seen much of this coming. Had he not made his fateful offer to resign to the BBC's governors, the odds are he would still be director-general. Had he paid more attention to the machinations within the BBC's dank corridors, he might have guessed that, rather than rally behind him, the board would do as the government hoped and "reluctantly" accept his offer. And, had he thought about the relationship between Birt and Blair, he might have guessed that the croak-voiced Dalek was now well placed to take a hideous revenge.

## JUST FANCY THAT!

Jarvis, the company at the centre of the Potters Bar rail crash inquiry, has gained a foothold in the market for treating NHS patients in fast-track surgery centres.

— Society Guardian, 19 January.

# FOCUS ON HUTTON

**HAS there been, in recent history, any whitewash comparable to Lord Hutton's? Of course: it is only three years since the Blair government asked Sir Anthony "Wally" Hammond to inquire into the Hinduja affair.**

As with Hutton, Hammond obtained plenty of damning evidence, including messages from Jack Straw's private secretary to the head of the immigration and nationality directorate urging him to consider Prakash Hinduja's request for a passport "as soon as possible", and advising that "the home secretary would like the case to be dealt with 'helpfully'."

As with Hutton, however, Hammond found nothing amiss. "I am satisfied," he concluded, "that the use of the word 'helpfully' did not have any suspicious connotations, nor did it suggest that the home secretary wished to give Mr Prakash Hinduja any preferential treatment." Hammond was so impressed by the scrupulous conduct of ministers and mandarins that he repeated the phrase "I am satisfied" 18 times in his report, which was thought at the time to be a new British all-comers' record.

Not any more. In the Hutton report, the phrase "I am satisfied" appears no fewer than 24 times. Well done, your lordship!

**CAN the Lord Hutton who cleared Downing Street, the MoD and intelligence chiefs of any mishandling of the evidence that took us into war and deeply concerned David Kelly be the same Lord Hutton who in 1997 in the Lords cleared the police and the crown prosecution service of any mishandling of evidence in the conviction eight years earlier of Gary Mills and Tony Poole?**

Mills and Poole were to serve yet another six years in jail protesting their innocence before they finally had their convictions for the murder of David Wiltshire quashed last year after a second appeal. *Eye* readers will recall that among other irregularities, one key witness, crucial to the defence, was told by the police not to turn up at court and a police officer gave a hearsay version of his account in court.

Although the appeal judges who finally freed the pair last year rejected their assertion that the police investigation was "rotten to the core", Lord Woolf, the lord chief justice, when he examined the case as part of judicial review proceedings earlier in 2003 described it as a "a chapter of errors" where "almost every aspect of the prosecution is tarnished". Perhaps Woolf should review the Hutton inquiry findings.

## 100 Years Ago...

**AFTER the Bloody Sunday shootings in 1972, Lord Widgery produced a notorious official report which found that British troops had done nothing wrong in opening fire on a crowd and killing 14 people. The soldiers were represented by a young QC named Brian Hutton.**

The following year, however, an inquest jury in Derry returned an open verdict on the deaths – whereupon the coroner, Major Hubert O'Neill, observed that by shooting indiscriminately the British army had effectively committed "sheer, unadulterated murder".

This was too much for the said Brian Hutton, the ministry of defence's counsel. "It is not for you or the jury to express such wide-ranging views," he rebuked the coroner, "particularly when a most eminent judge has spent 20 days hearing evidence and come to a very different conclusion."

Quite so. Thirty years on, Lord Widgery himself could scarcely have done a better job.

# Street Of Shame

**THE *Sunday Telegraph* turned viciously on its former defence correspondent Andrew Gilligan last Sunday. What it neglected to tell its readers was that only a couple of days earlier it had been pleading with him to write an article.**

Gilligan had also been approached by the *Mail on Sunday* and the *Sunday Times*, and decided in the end to accept the *Sunday Times*'s shilling. Whereupon *Sunday Telegraph* editor Dominic Lawson rang up Gilligan to promise him that if he wrote his piece for the *Sunday Telegraph* he would be presented as a hero. However if he wrote for the *Sunday Times* Lawson would put the boot in.

When Gilligan declined the offer, Lawson duly kept his promise. This is what is known in the trade as a "reverse ferret" (©Kelvin Mackenzie).

**BARBARA AMIEL was scathing in her verdict on an "unrepentant" Greg Dyke in her *Telegraph* column on 2 February.**

"Greg Dyke and the BBC governors affirmed their deep and abiding faith in him [Andrew Gilligan], without the bother of any investigation. That deserves an apology. If Mr Dyke can't see it, I'm stymied as to what ethical guidance anyone can give him."

Amiel herself is perhaps not in a position to offer ethical guidance to anyone. Along with her husband Conrad Black she stands accused of receiving millions of pounds in unauthorised payments from companies they control, to fund a lifestyle in which she says "my extravagance knows no bounds".

While Black has been sacked as chairman of Hollinger International and is now being sued by the company, and seven other directors have quit in the last three months, Amiel remains on the board as vice-president of editorial and publishing. She is, however, excluded from the review committee which is considering the company's future. While she has remained silent on the affair, the closest her husband has come to an apology is to call his critics "a bunch of self-righteous hypocrites and ingrates".

**RICHARD "Dirty" Desmond recently asked Bentley if he could test-drive its new £345,000 car as he wanted to become only the second person in the world to own one. Obviously hoping for a discount, he had also told his various motoring editors to feature the car on their pages.**

When told that test-drives weren't available on that model, Des promptly withdrew his offer to buy one – and binned the features too!

A shame, really, as new *Daily Express* Editor Peter Hill could have parked his tiny Smart car in the glove box.

**NICE to see Rebekah Wade's *Sun* still scoring full marks for moral consistency.**

Having lionised Phil Tufnell last year for his appearance on *I'm A Celebrity... Get Me Out of Here!*, Wade signed up the ex-cricketer as her rag's special correspondent for the current series.

Quite how his recruitment squares with Wade's noble stand against domestic violence is unclear. As we said in *Eye* 1082, "Tuffers" was convicted in 1994 of common assault and actual bodily harm on his then girlfriend.

Meanwhile the *Sun*'s agony aunt Deidre Sanders has been quick to condemn TV presenters John Leslie and Abi Titmuss for their "4-in-a-bed orgy shame", dismissing it as a "sordid story" and offering Titmuss some "urgent advice: get out now... You risk being viewed as a sleazy victim *no one* wants to be associated with".

Just a few pages on, readers interested in sex involving multiple players could enjoy one of the paper's interminable plugs for Sky drama *Nip/Tuck*, with pictures from a raunchy threesome that would be broadcast that evening: "These sexy twins are just what the doctor ordered... Looks like he has his hands full to us!"

The same day's paper also devoted most of a double-page spread to "sensationally saucy pictures from a new lesbian TV show that has stunned America", featuring close-up shots of topless women having sex with each other. "It's the ultimate male fantasy – especially when they invite him to join in", the paper leered.

**THE *Sun*'s "showbiz scooperstar" Victoria Newton continues to pull in the big stories, with exclusive pics from paparazzo king Jason Fraser showing Zoe Ball and a "seaside pal" on a beach in Thailand.**

"The mystery woman was taken to Thailand by Zoe and husband Norman Cook on the couple's romantic break," reported Newton on 29 January. But while she speculated at great length on the comparative figures of the two women, she failed to spot one vital detail: Ball's companion was Briggy Smale, an entertainment journalist on Radio One who spends most of her working life at showbiz junkets alongside Newton and her pisspoor team.

**THE *Daily Mail* was oddly muted when it reported the promotion of former Brixton police commander Brian Paddick to deputy assistant commissioner at Scotland Yard.**

The move puts DAC Paddick – who pioneered a policy of not arresting people carrying small amounts of cannabis – in line to be Britain's first openly gay chief constable, the *Mail* reported, adding that this will be "welcomed by 'diversity' campaigners".

So why no wailing or gnashing of teeth which would normally accompany such a report in the paper? There was only one brief mention of "allegations about his private life", which referred to the *Mail*'s own vicious campaign against the officer in 2002.

Oddly the *Mail* also failed to mention that in December it was forced to pay "substantial damages" to DAC Paddick over two articles based on "kiss and tell" interviews with two of his former partners, and false allegations that he had taken drugs. No wonder the report was muted.

**PETER Mackay, the man behind the *Daily Mail*'s Ephraim Hardcastle column, is having problems with his gaydar.**

The ragingly red-blooded McKay decided to "out" poet Don Paterson, who was recently presented with the TS Eliot Prize for poetry by culture minister Estelle Morris.

"Might his verses find favour in the Bohemian upper reaches of the Blair administration?" mused McKay. "A sonnet from one gay man to another ends 'I kissed your mouth and pledged myself forever.'"

Unfortunately for McKay, the poem in question, Waking With Russell, is actually about Paterson's four-day-old baby son, the youngest of what he describes as his "numerous offspring".

**SO IT was his stint as a young hack in the New York bureau of the Express that broadened Paul Dacre's narrow, left-leaning horizons and made him the fine editor he is today, he tells listeners to Radio Four's Desert Island Discs.**

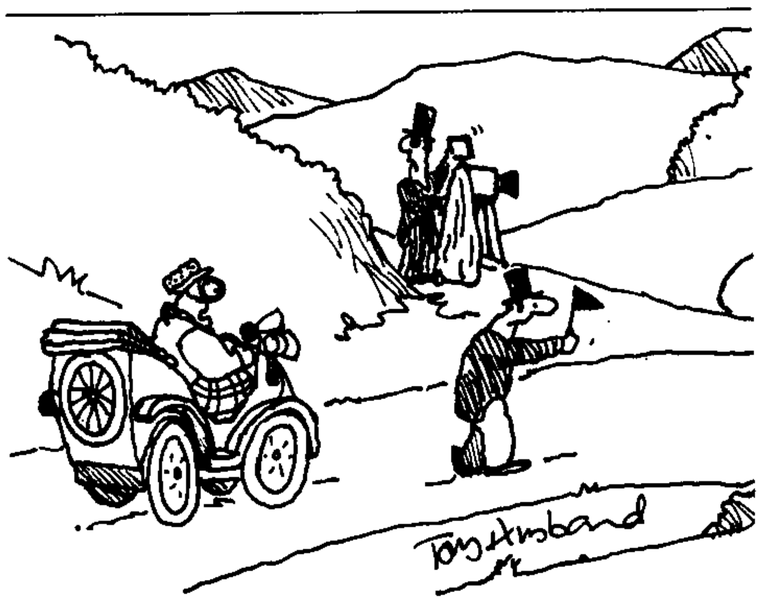
Curious that as editor of *Daily Wail* he denies his staff and readers that all important international perspective: he's the first editor in decades to shut down important foreign bureaux, including the New York office.

**BELEAGUERED *Financial Times* editor Andrew "Tubby" Gowers has sent a memo to all hacks berating them for a string of alleged errors. He threatens that at each day's editorial conference he will "name and shame" the sub-editor who has written the day's dullest headline and the reporter responsible for the biggest mistake.**

One candidate for the stocks might be the ignoramus who wrote a recent editorial on the Parmalat scandal – and managed to mis-spell the Italian food company's name every time he mentioned it. The culprit? Step forward, Andrew "Tubby" Gowers.

**UNLIKE certain media organisations, the *Daily Star* is a stickler for accuracy. Last week, with investigative journalism under scrutiny as never before, the paper's chief sub Brian Kelly sent an urgent memo to hacks.**

"Just a note to help writers and subs with the *I'm a Celebrity* business. Lord Brocket has one t. Jennie Bond has an ie. Jordan has two FFs."



*"For God's sake Acton, slow down. Speed camera!"*

**MARTIN Johnson's retirement from international rugby has prompted a torrent of tributes from Piers Moron's *Daily Mirror* to "England's talismatic [*sic*] leader". He is "the all-time great England player", whose "legend will grow and grow".**

Could this by any chance be the same *Daily Mirror* which, during the recent rugby world cup, dispatched a hack to Leicestershire to ask Johnson's neighbours if his wife had been "misbehaving" in the great man's absence?

Alas for Moron, the hack's tireless inquiries among the residents of Market Harborough elicited nothing – apart from regular cries of "fuck off!"

## THE NEOPHILIACS

**"Is fat the new black?"** — *Ms London* magazine.

"Modesty's the new black." — *Independent on Sunday*.

**"Red is the new black."** — *Sunday Times*.

"This season's new black – black and white." — *Daily Telegraph*.

**"D is for denim. It's so totally the new black."** — *Daily Mirror*.

"Next season 'individuality' is the new black." — *Observer*.

**"Islamophobia is the new black."** — *Observer*.

"Chrysanthemums are the new black." — Flower Council of Holland.

# HACKWATCH

## Lapses of Judgement

**FROM the moment a law lord was chosen to investigate the Kelly affair last July, the outcome was inevitable. All precedents in living memory – Scott on arms-to-Iraq, Franks on the Falklands, Bingham on Rhodesian sanctions-busting, Denning on Profumo – confirm that when a judge holds such an inquiry he gathers masses of incriminating evidence, only to conclude that no one in government did anything wrong. But Fleet Street's finest knew better…**

**22 July:** Frances Gibb, legal editor of the *Times*, profiles Lord Hutton. "Lawyers said that although he kept a low profile he was not a walkover. They singled out his independent spirit, saying he had not been afraid to stand up to the Establishment."

**31 July:** "Only a law lord, perhaps, would have the gravitas, the authority, the experience and the independence to win acceptance for his conclusions from the public and the media," James Meek writes in the *Guardian*. "But those same qualities make the inquiry chairman a real threat to the government."

**1 August:** In the *Scotsman*, Jason Beattie hails Lord Hutton as the ideal man to conduct the Kelly inquiry. "The 72-year-old law lord has consistently won respect for the fairness and independence of his judgments."

**4 August:** "Lord Hutton will be a judicial Gradgrind: facts, facts, facts," Bruce Anderson informs *Independent* readers. "The Blair government is in a position which it always dreaded. It is at the mercy of the unvarnished, unadulterated, unspun truth."

**12 August:** An editorial in the *Scotsman* lavishes praise on Hutton for his no-nonsense approach to politicians. "Indeed, in these days of spin, Lord Hutton's plain speaking may end up making him an unlikely popular hero." Meanwhile, Graeme Wilson of the *Daily Mail* already knows whom Hutton will blame. "Mr Hoon is expected to be one of the most high-profile victims of the inquiry into Dr David Kelly's death, along with Tony Blair's chief spin-doctor Alastair Campbell."

**28 September:** Julia Hartley-Brewer, political editor of the *Sunday Express*, reveals that "Downing Street has made it clear that the prime minister expects Mr Hoon to fall on his sword when Lord Hutton reports."

**18 October:** Sir Kevin Tebbit has testified that Tony Blair chaired the meeting which agreed the "naming strategy" to get Dr Kelly publicly identified. Peter Oborne of the *Spectator* is jubilant. "Lord Hutton will now find it impossible to keep some powerful criticisms of No 10 Downing Street out of his report," he declares. "And that blows sky-high the carefully constructed No 10 strategy to make Geoff Hoon, the woeful secretary of state for defence, scapegoat for the Kelly affair." If Hoon resigns – "as he surely must" – Blair will have to quit as well.

**8 November:** "Suddenly, New Labour looks very weak," Peter Oborne writes in the *Spectator*. "The Hutton report, put back to the new year, looms horribly for Blair."

**28 November:** "Until now," Peter Oborne reports, this time in the *Daily Mail*, "almost all Whitehall opinion has held that Blair will be able to brush off Lord Hutton's report with some ease. Conventional wisdom holds that while Geoff Hoon, the hapless defence secretary, will almost certainly be forced out, Blair should be relatively undamaged." But, Oborne believes, "that wisdom may be flawed", since Sir Kevin Tebbit's evidence means Hutton will have to condemn Blair. "Michael Howard, the most skilled and forensic Tory performer for years, could be lethal. He is capable of doing to Blair over Hutton what Neil Kinnock failed to do to Margaret Thatcher over Westland in 1986 – namely, destroy him."

**7 December:** According to Peter Oborne, this time in the *Mail on Sunday*, the Hutton report "is looking more dangerous for the prime minister by the day… Try as he might, Lord Hutton will be unable to avoid making direct criticisms of Blair in his report and will thereby give plenty of material for Michael Howard to work on."

**13 December:** "Poor Geoff Hoon is held in general contempt throughout Whitehall," the prolific Peter Oborne writes in the *Spectator*. "His position is weakened further by the fact that he will probably be forced to quit in the wake of next month's Hutton report."

**27 December:** Robert Verkaik of the *Independent* pays tribute to "Lord Hutton – the judge who has put the nation's leaders in the dock". Hutton's report, he claims, "will run to more than 1,000 pages and is not expected to pull its punches… Lord Hutton has emerged as a fiercely independent arbiter of truth. The judge has pursued his quarry without fear or favour, setting new standards for the way judicial investigations are conducted."

**10 January 2004:** Why does Peter Hain, the Leader of the House, refuse to say whether Tony Blair will speak in the debate on the Hutton report? Simon Heffer of the *Daily Mail* has the answer. "Mr Blair is reluctant to face parliament because he knows how damaging the report is likely to be for him, and what an opportunity it will present for Michael Howard to tear into him."

**17 January:** Simon Heffer turns his attention to the defence secretary. "Mr Hoon is expected to be history as soon as the Hutton report is published in 11 days' time," he reveals.

**24 January:** On the Saturday before the report is due, a 3,000-word profile in the *Times* by Magnus Linklater claims that Hutton always takes "calm, liberal decisions, dictated purely by an instinct for justice – the right decision based on the right interpretation of the facts".

**25 January:** The Hutton report will be "complex, reasoned and thorough", Jonathon Carr-Brown discloses in the *Sunday Times*. "Few expect Hutton to be audacious or sensational in his conclusions… But the lack of instant blood on the floor does not mean that he will let anyone off the hook."

**26 January:** Two days to go. "It seems likely," a *Financial Times* editorial predicts, "that Lord Hutton will spray his criticism fairly equally between the government, the BBC and maybe even the unfortunate Kelly." The London *Evening Standard*,'s political correspondents Charles Reiss and Ben Leapman note that Blair will receive his advance copy of the report tomorrow. "Although MPs believed the report would not find that Mr Blair lied, the government was braced for serious criticism." Elsewhere in the *Standard*, the irrepressible Peter Oborne writes that "Hutton's job is to make judgments and apportion blame… This week ought to produce resignations. But at this stage that looks most unlikely." Meanwhile, in the *Times*, Mystic Mogg peers into his famous crystal ball. "The Hutton report is likely to criticise the government as well as the BBC," William Rees-Mogg announces, "and these criticisms will damage the government's reputation." He has another prophecy: "Geoff Hoon, the defence secretary, will have to resign."

**28 January:** Whoops!

## Number crunching

**6** ■ number of footballers, TV presenters and royal aides accused of rape on newspaper front pages last year

**0** ■ number of footballers, TV presenters and royal aides accused of rape in a courtroom as a result

## IN THE TEAROOM

**RUDDERLESS, leaderless, all at sea. No, not the BBC but the Brownites.**

Only a week ago the chancellor's supporters thought they had Mr Tony by the balls. Surely his heart and mind, and quite possibly his early resignation, were bound to follow? The knives were out, the press was squared, the working class was quite prepared.

But not only did Gordon let the prime minister off the hook over tuition fees: he appeared to sign a comprehensive non-aggression pact with his erstwhile enemy next door. Tony Blair is now free to go further than ever before in calling for public service reform, promising ever greater "radicalism" (ie private sector involvement). And he can do so confident that Gordon will stay mum.

It's not that the chancellor actually believes all the Blairite blether about "new localism" and "personalization". It's not that he expects anything useful to come from the ludicrous piece of homework the PM has set every member of the cabinet – to dream up one amazing, vote-catching policy wheeze by the first of June. It's just that he's done the maths.

Despite his seemingly invincible conceitedness, in his heart Gordon knows he's had a staggeringly long run of luck at the treasury. But in 18 months to two years it's all going to turn sour. Even this year he's going to be pushed to maintain his famous "golden rule". Unpopular tax hikes and tough spending rounds, and eventually public spending cuts beckon. Time to get out of No 11 and into No 10, reputation intact. And the surest way to achieve that is to help Mr Tony win one more election before packing him off to solve the problems of Africa.

But for it all to come right, that election will have to be somewhat earlier than the pundits expect. And that's the essence of the new Granita accord. A lot of policy waffle through the summer. Manifesto drafted early autumn. Then a dash to the polls, catching Michael Howard on the hop.

Meanwhile, amity between rivals is essential.

So Gordon's message for the poor bloody egalitarian footsoldiers in the tearoom who've been loyally stoking the fires of rebellion, is: sorry, lads – the revolution's off. He's got breakfast in the City to get the businessmen back onside. And he's got an early election to win.

*'Quintus Slide'*

**BACK in September 2002, the then education secretary Estelle Morris described herself as a "very dissatisfied customer" of Capita.**

After the Criminal Records Bureau debacle (CRB) and the Individual Learning Accounts (ILA) fiasco, you might think the department of education and skills would have learned its lesson.

Apparently not. Crapita is now one of just two companies on the shortlist for a £40m national contract to employ thousands of numeracy and literacy consultants who provide guidance to teachers. The scheme is an increasingly desperate bid to reach targets which should have been met in 2002.

Headteachers' organisations say that £40m would go a good way to helping many schools out of dire financial crisis, so enabling them to pay properly trained teachers who are already capable of teaching reading and maths. But the government seems determined instead to dish the cash out to its PFI pals.

Will the government ever learn? More to the point, will the children?

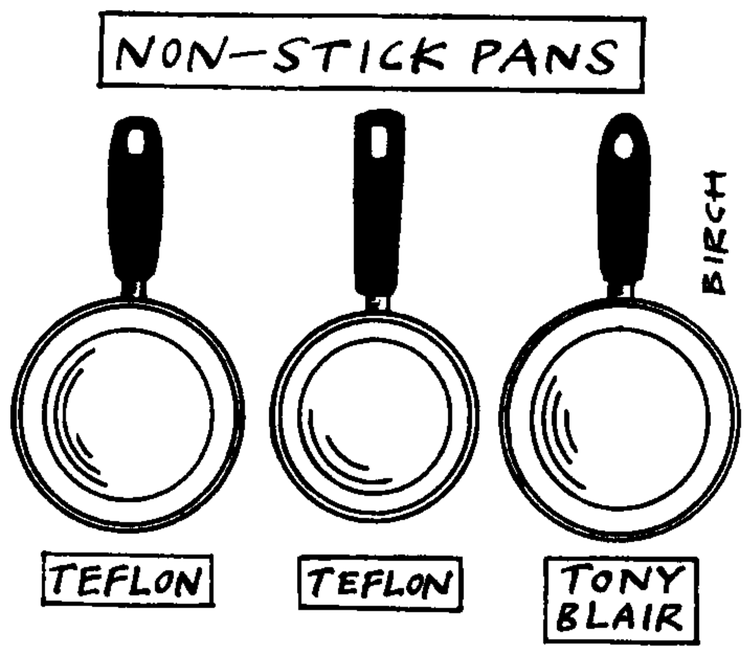
## Number crunching

**72** ■ number of Labour rebels who voted against changes to tuition fees 'on principle' last week

**40** ■ number of those rebels who have discovered those principles since voting for introduction of tuition fees in 1998

**MORE news from Bent East, the once rock solid Labour seat seized by Liberal Democrat Sarah Teather in a by-election at the end of last year. Labour is desperate to win it back at the next election (it was once the domain of Ken Livingstone, remember) and is busy looking for a new candidate.**

One person who was determined to be that candidate is Shahid Malik. In a desperate attempt to garner votes, he even promised to send a video to his comrades proving that he had valiantly opposed the war in Iraq – when in fact he had done the exact opposite at the Labour party conference. The doomed was ruled out of the selection shortlist last week.




**NO ONE is rubbing their hands together more at home secretary David Blunkett's plan to increase the use of tagging than the three private security companies who run the schemes.**

In the last financial year taxpayers paid around £70m for electronic tagging of offenders – most of it to Reliance Monitoring, Premier and Securicor. Over the next three years that amount is likely to double. Parliamentary questions by the Liberal Democrats have found that while the cost of setting up a tag with a phone line in an offender's home is a mere £150 (the device itself costs only a few pounds) the companies charge more than 10 times that per offender.

The extra is said to fund equipment and staff who provide constant monitoring. In reality the surveillance stations were paid for by designated start-up costs; and staff are only deployed if an offender breaches his curfew and the alarm sounds. The majority do not breach curfews; and more than 84 percent of offenders only encounter the private security companies when they are tagged and when they are untagged.

Napo, the probation union, calculates that it costs about £8,000 a year to tag an individual offender – undoubtedly a huge saving compared to the cost of prison. The concern is that it is increasingly used to replace more effective community penalties. It costs £2,000 more than the oversubscribed drug treatment programmes and three times as much as a straight probation order.

One reason for the huge overspend in probation service budgets, which has led to cuts in front line staff, is that the service had to spend £11m more on tagging last year than it had anticipated. But no one has evaluated how effective it is compared with probation supervision or treatment programmes. Nor has anyone evaluated, because of "commercial confidentiality", how much profit the private industry makes from the home office deal.

**PRISON inspectors lavished praise on Ashfield Young Offenders Institution (YOI) last month, saying the jail had made fundamental improvements since it was dubbed the most dangerous institution in Britain after a riot in 2002.**

How has this remarkable improvement been made? Er, by taking the young offenders out of the YOI altogether.

Premier Prison, which runs the YOI under a 25-year contract with the Prison Service, is supposed to provide an operational capacity of 400 places for young offenders. When the inspectors made their recent visit, there were just 212 juveniles at Ashfield. Inspectors recommended keeping numbers under 300 for the time being.

**WHO better to serve as co-chairman of the parliamentary sustainable waste group than the environmentally-friendly Roy Beggs, Ulster Unionist MP for Antrim East?**

In 2001 Mr Beggs narrowly escaped prosecution for illegal tipping at a landfill site in Antrim licensed in his name. Tons of unauthorised materials had to be removed from the dump, and an investigation was launched by Larne council. Mr Beggs had to apologise to the Commons for not declaring his landfill site in the register of MPs' interests.

The investigation found "sufficient evidence" to prosecute the MP; but such a move, it was agreed, would not be in the public interest – probably because a lot of the illegally-tipped waste had come from the investigating authority, Larne council, where Beggs is a councillor.

What a good subject for discussion for the parliamentary sustainable waste group which humbly describes itself as "the premier forum for debate between parliamentarians, business leaders and members of the waste community on sustainable waste issues".

**HARDLY anyone in Britain gets as favourable publicity as Barbara Cassani, the go-getting chair of the bid to bring the 2012 Olympics to London.**

Much is made of Cassani's former chairmanship of the low-fares airline GO. But another aspect of her career at British Airways attracts less attention. In his account of the dirty tricks campaign by BA against rival airlines, author Martyn Gregory describes the "helpliners" – British Airways staff who secretly broke into the computers of rival airlines to find out how many passengers they were carrying on what routes.

In doing so, Gregory alleged, British Airways was "breaching the undertaking it had given to the House of Commons". The information from the rivals' computers was stored in brown envelopes that were taken the next day to BA offices in Buckingham Palace Road. There they were analysed and assessed by Barbara Cassani. She used some of the information on a special project to work out and expose Virgin airlines punctuality. For some reason this heroic episode in her career is never mentioned in the numerous articles and puffs about the London Olympic bid.

---

**NOTICE BOARD**

**POINTS OF INTEREST in KEEPING WILTSHIRE SAFE from the WILTSHIRE CONSTABULARY**

*Fyfield & W. Overton Parish Council*

**"IT WAS frustrating, work was paralysed." "There are some chaotic projects and dreadful files." "There were panic measures; the whole thing was out of control."**

Just some of the comments from staff at the Department for International Development (DfiD), describing reorganisation of their London-based policy division through 2002/2003 – and which an independent report says saw more than £1.5m spent on making the department worse.

Previously the policy division was split into teams based on expertise, such as health and economics. These have now been split into "multi-disciplinary" teams with nebulous titles such as Drivers of Change, Rapid Response Unit and Aid Effectiveness.

The cost of reorganisation, in consultants' fees and staff time, was £650,000, with knock on costs of an estimated £1m in terms of work not completed and opportunities lost. Meanwhile the annual administration costs for the advisory department have risen from £11m to £25m.

The staff comments were made to The Evaluation Trust, an independent body which carried out a review of the reorganisation in December. The review concludes that while DfiD staff had commitment and energy, the division was largely run by advisers, rather than managers, who lacked the skills to carry out the reorganisation. Finance and information systems were also "not adequate to support the change" and the reorganisation had "significantly damaged the formal and informal knowledge networks that joined DfiD up internally and with partners in the outside world".

The review acknowledges that the war in Iraq and the change of ministers caused by Clare Short's resignation added to the problems.

DfiD's only response to the *Eye*'s questions about the reorganisation was that "the final report was presented to DfiD Management Board in December and any necessary follow up action is currently being considered".

Meanwhile DfiD's budget has increased by 40 percent since 1997. If all this cash were going to help development, complaints would seem churlish. But spending money to make the department's administration worse helps no one.

**BOSSES at the Learning and Skills Council (LSC) are under pressure to suspend senior managers after a draft report into vicious bullying of staff.**

A report jointly commissioned by the PCS union and the LSC from the arbitration service ACAS was leaked to the education press last week. Staff told the independent ACAS investigators that managers publicly told their employees that they were "wankers" or "shaggable".

"The casual and open use of obscenities and derogatory remarks (both sexual and otherwise) is seen as being propagated at senior level and permeating down the organisation." Besides the name-calling, there was also mickey-taking with staff being ridiculed in front of external clients and obvious side-whispering in the style of school bullies.

# THE IRAQ BUSINESS

**THE Iraq war wasn't fought for oil; it was fought to promote a free, democratic Iraq (*what about WMDs? Ed*). Who can doubt it after foreign office minister Baroness Symons greeted the first seven Iraqi "Chevening" scholars in Britain, part of the FO's contribution to rebuilding the new Iraq.**

These students will study at British universities jointly paid for by the British government and private sponsorship.

Curiously, every one of the sponsors is either an oil firm with Iraqi interests or an engineering company that works for the oil industry. Premier Oil, Tigris Oil, Shell, BHP Billiton, Amec & Weir Services are paying for the students – who, according to the foreign office, all "come from oil backgrounds".

**HOW times have changed since the arms-to-Sierra Leone kerfuffle in 1998 when ethical "new" Labour was accused of working with Sandline, a private military company (PMC). Today the government is free to hire, work with or promote any number of PMCs.**

Tony Blair's Iraq envoy Brian Wilson took many British companies to the Rebuild Iraq 2004 exhibition in Kuwait last month hoping for contractual crumbs from the American table.

Among them was Securewest International, a Devon-based security firm which supplies "armed and unarmed security guards", including ex-forces staff, from its subsidiary Ghurkha Manpower Services.

Selling soldiers is the one British business doing well in Iraq. The British and American armies now pay a British private firm, Global Risk Strategies, to guard their headquarters in Basra and Baghdad.

Even though Iraq is awash with unemployed ex-soldiers, mercenary firms tend to import their labour. Global uses Ghurkhas as well as Fijian former soldiers and police. (Iraqis don't get much of a look-in because they are deemed "a security risk".)

Using cheaper non-European staff is one way for the PMCs to save money. A Coalition Provisional Authority (CPA) spokesman suggested that Global's Ghurkhas may cost less because they "live above the shop", sleeping and eating inside the CPA's Basra headquarters.

**BEFORE a shot was fired in the Iraq war, *Private Eye* revealed how American company Halliburton was already lined up to scoop lucrative reconstruction contracts in the country (see *Eye* 1075). And so it came to pass.**

Halliburton now imports petrol from Kuwait into Iraq, even though Iraq has some of the largest oil reserves in the world. (Not enough of Iraq's own oil is being pumped, either because American firms overseeing reconstruction are not up to the job or because malcontents are attacking, sabotaging or looting the machinery.)

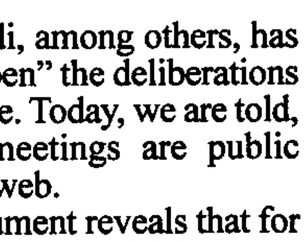
Halliburton's critics in the US congress claim the company is overcharging wildly. It sells Kuwaiti petrol for $2.64 a gallon, while the Iraqi State oil firm SOMO sells Kuwaiti petrol for 96 cents a gallon.

Halliburton admits, moreover, that two of its executives took around $6m in bribes from a Kuwaiti supplier, although this was in connection with the firm's contract to supply food to the US army, not oil. Halliburton also still pays a stipend to its former chief executive, US vice-president Dick Cheney, although both Cheney and Halliburton say there is no impropriety. So that's all right, then.

**THE CEYLON Place Baptist Church has been sold — but the congregation are still searching for someone to worship.**

*Eastbourne Herald*

# BRUSSELS SPROUTS



**THIRTEEN months after allegations surfaced in the press about massive corruption at Eurostat, the European Union's statistical office in Luxembourg, action is finally being taken. Eurostat bosses have set up an in-house Samaritans service – at taxpayers' expense – for staff who feel down in the dumps.**

The Chambre d'Ecoute, or "listening room", aims to help them deal with emotional trauma caused by fall out from the scandal. Its specific remit is to ensure the poor dears are counselled on how to deal with "mobbing" by journalists or internal investigators who accuse the office of being institutionally corrupt.

Any such negative feelings have probably been sparked by the series of inquiries launched by OLAF, the internal audit service, the European parliament and others.

**THE listening room was launched just as it was revealed that the "transparency regime" of the European Union is so much window-dressing.**

EU president Romano Prodi, among others, has been at pains to reveal how "open" the deliberations of the European commission are. Today, we are told, all commission committee meetings are public access with transcripts on the web.

Er, not quite. A leaked document reveals that for almost all these important meetings which rubber stamp new EU laws there are two transcripts, each translated into the 12 official languages. One is full of disagreement, national bickering and personal bile against individual commissioners; the other is a cuddly, bowdlerised version. This is the one that's put on the EC website and is shown to parliamentarians. No wonder everyone in Brussels is so surprised, or feigns surprise, when there is a royal falling out – as there is now with the commission's legal action against its own boss (the council of ministers) over the Stability (Stupidity) Pact.

**THE heat appears to have been turned up on EC whistleblower Marta Andreasen (*Eyes passim*). EU insiders say the former chief accountant of the commission is being followed again by strange men, whom she assumes to be EC security staff.**

She thinks that the men may have something to do with the two legal cases she has pending against the EU executive, which removed her in 2002 – an act which Neil Kinnock supported and played a key part in executing. Andreasen's landlady (at her Brussels residence) has been visited by men who would not reveal their identity but asked many questions about her movements.

"No one has ever followed Mrs Andreasen at the instruction, or with the knowledge, of the commission; no one has ever made inquiries about Mrs Andreasen at the instruction of the commission," insisted a spokesman for commissioner Kinnock. He also added, "Mrs Andreasen has never been 'fired' by the European commission. She is suspended from work on full pay while disciplinary proceedings are conducted and her civil rights of representation and presumption of innocence are protected. All the allegations presented in the statement are, in short, untrue."

# JOINED-UP GOVERNMENT

**26 January**: European Commission circulates draft judgement condemning Microsoft for illegal software monopoly

**26 January**: Foreign secretary announces that Microsoft founder Bill Gates is to receive honorary knighthood for "transforming business practices"

*'Backbiter'*

# FTV

## I'm A Celebrity... Get Me Out Of Here! (ITV1/ITV2)

**THE Hollywood screenwriter William Goldman coined the phrase "nobody knows anything" to account for the fact that huge-budget movies with major stars fail horribly while little pieces with anonymous actors and unpromising subjects can suddenly take off.**

In television, too, you never can tell. Who would have thought that a little summer filler pushed out by a desperate ITV1 two years ago – and mocked by critics and commentators as British TV's creative nadir – would become an unstoppable hit: a magnet to advertisers and the only story in town capable of claiming newspaper space from the Hutton report?

In retrospect, the success of **I'm A Celebrity... Get Me Out Of Here!** can be attributed to a number of factors. The first is that, while the other reality gross-out shows such as *Big Brother* used non-entities in the main series with occasional famous-face specials, this show understood that the best way of addressing the problem with the reality format – that it only becomes interesting once you know the contestants – was to go with the known from the off.

The second streak of genius was to create a television show which completely by-passed the two ways in which a programme usually attracts the attention of the audience: reviews and advertising. The problem is that the former are hard to guarantee (because TV critics can be snotty bastards), while the latter are expensive.

But what *I'm A Celebrity...* understood was that, because the tabloids are obsessed with fading celebrities and the humiliation of the famous, the show would amass several pages of feature coverage and free advertising every day. The views of TV critics become irrelevant; the advertising department can keep its piggy-bank sealed.

The only drawback the format had at launch was that the definition of "celebrity" had to be stretched so far. Most of the early contestants were people who were so desperate to feel the glow of an arc-light again that they would do almost

literally anything. But while the *Big Brother* format has weakened over time – as the challenges have become more familiar and the contestants increasingly desperate – *I'm A Celebrity...* has actually improved because the people competing have gradually risen in interest.

Among the 2004 bunch in the jungle, for example, it can be argued that "Razor" Ruddock is a default attempt to fill the cocky-jock slot associated with 2003 winner Phil Tufnell and that fading DJ Mike Read is a simple ringer for 2002 hero Tony Blackburn. But, beyond that, John Lydon is a bona fide rock idol and Jordan and Mrs George Best are proper stars of the famous-for-nothing kind, while Jennie Bond of the BBC is someone who has been a famous TV face as recently as weeks before the series began. And the use of Lord Brocket in the bonkers aristo role is a clever and cheeky piece of casting.

The first reason the quality of contestant has improved is that people always want to be in on a hit, even if it's one in which they risk humiliation. And smart stars have realised that the format is much more forgiving than Big Brother. Because the challenges are for individuals and the jungle set is rather large, it's possible to achieve quite a reasonable degree of privacy and dignity.

Some of the contestants – especially Read and Alex Best – were scarcely seen at all in the opening week. And, though the premise of the series is to humiliate the famous and strip them of all dignity, it's possible to gain respect for showing courage because the trials — involving burial alive and/or having rats scrabbling at your face – are true psychological tests, mainly drawn from Orwell's *1984*.

All that said, it's pretty upsetting this stuff should end up as our hottest must-see TV. It wouldn't take a psychologist very long to work out what's really going on in the numerous sequences in which the female contestants are challenged to eat and swallow slimy, disgusting things which they really don't want in their mouths. Odd how often it seems to be the women who are voted to eat the creepy-crawlies.

The format, though, is now impossible to stop. If Posh's albums start to sell even fewer and Chris Evans continues to flop as a TV producer, it's not at all inconceivable that we'll soon see recent stars of that rank in the Australian rain forest. Even so, anyone who suffers from dizzy spells should probably not sit on the grave of Lord Reith for a while.

*'Remote Controller'*

## DUMB BRITAIN

*The Weakest Link, BBC2*

**Anne Robinson**: In the 1940s which politician was responsible for the introduction of the welfare state: William...?

**Contestant**: The Conqueror.

**Robinson**: The director of the 1956 film *The Ten Commandments* was Cecil B. who?

**Contestant**: Parkinson.

**Robinson**: In the Middle Ages, Richard Neville, Earl of Warwick, was known as what, the Kingmaker or the Cakemaker?

**Contestant**: The Cakemaker.

*National Lottery Jet Set, BBC1*

**Eamonn Holmes**: There are three states of matter: solid, liquid and what?

**Contestant**: Jelly.

## MEDIA NEWS

**THE sudden transformation of Greg the Director-General to Saint Greg the Martyr transfixed many at BBC TV Centre.**

Smart "Bring Back Greg" placards and colour pictures of the great man were rushed to reception as the press gathered outside; and a selection of favourable emails were found for him to quote from, but the tidal wave of emotion appeared to be genuine.

Seasoned hacks soon became hysterical, weeping openly and smearing his car and face with lipstick, rushing forward to touch him. BBC Somerset Sound even held a minute's silence.

Moments later, a hasty meeting was convened by Peter Horrocks, head of current affairs at White City. "Greg has made the whole place more creative," he sobbed. This was an unfortunate choice of adjective, since "creativity" in news reporting is precisely what got Andrew Gilligan into trouble in the first place. But the assembled hacks knew what he meant.

**AT THAT same meeting it was made clear that head of news Richard Sambrook would not be joining the rush to resign.**

Gilligan is likely to quietly accept Boris Johnson's offer of a job at *The Spectator*, where he will join another former BBC employee, his great supporter Rod Liddle.

Sambrook, however, whose editorial role was described as "defective" by Hutton, will stay in his job and work "to rebuild trust". One of his priorities will be to force "a change in the way politics and the media relate". This is, he says, because "both constituencies need to show proper respect and understanding of their respective roles and responsibilities".

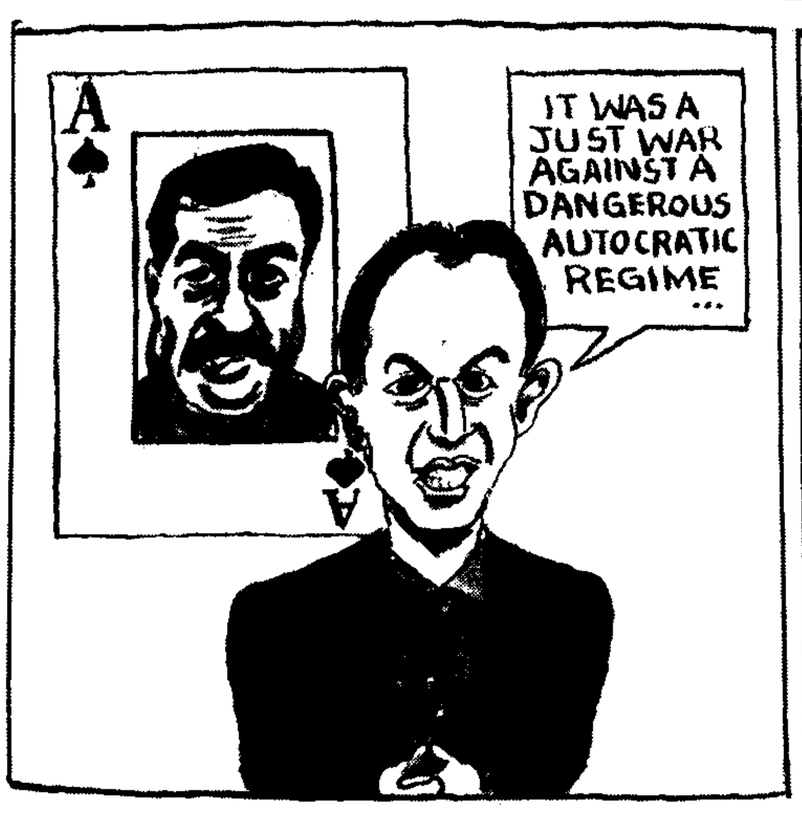
This must be music to government ears. It's exactly what cabinet minister John Reid demanded when he appeared on the *Today* programme.

**SOME members of the BBC board of governors were never very likely to help Davies and Dyke out in their hour of need.**

Dame Pauline Neville Jones (*Eyes passim*) was beaten to the chairmanship of the governors by Davies when news of her business dealings with Slobodan Milosevic stuck in too many craws. She has been a constant critic of Davies ever since; and she was behind the demand, fiercely opposed by Davies, for a review of the BBC's "biased" coverage of the Gulf war.

She was also behind the warning from governors that the relationship between BBC managers and the government was getting too close. And she is one of several governors who had decided that Greg Dyke's populist touch was leading to dangerous accusations of dumbing down in the run up to charter renewal.

With Davies and Dyke gone, perhaps Neville Jones can have another crack at the top job?



**COULD Greg Dyke be a victim of his own failed mission to "Cut The Crap"? After all, he himself admitted that it took him too long to focus on the enfolding Hutton crisis.**

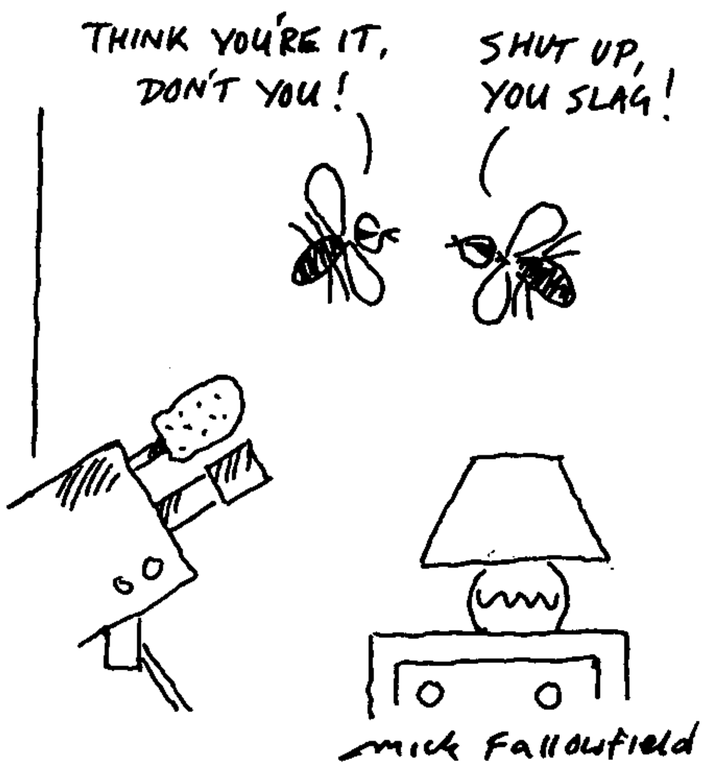
Dyke devoted much of his time to projects that had nothing to do with programme making: "Cut The Crap"; the "One BBC" initiative; the "Making It Happen" scheme; the "Big Conversation"; two "Big Brainstorms"; a "Leadership Programme"; the creation of new "BBC Values"; the list goes on...

No wonder his role as editor-in-chief appears to have received less than his full attention.

**THE day after its scoop about the Hutton report (from a single, unverifiable source), the *Sun* took to the pulpit to deliver a sermon on ethics to its journalistic competitors.**

"Dyke should take to heart the resignation words of Davies: 'There is an honourable tradition in British public life that those charged with authority at the top of an organisation should accept responsibility for what happens in that organisation'. Dyke and Head of News Richard Sambrook cannot be allowed to keep their jobs. It will be obscene if the BBC's biggest bosses try to hide behind Gilligan."

Quite right: one must learn from history. Perhaps when Dyke walked the following day, he had had time to consider a similar case last year, when Sky News was fined £50,000 by the ITC for broadcasting bogus footage during Iraq war. Reporter James Forlong had already been fired from the channel, and later committed suicide. Sky's head of news Nick Pollard did the honourable thing by… staying in his job.




**Fly-on-the-wall documentary**

# LUVVIES

"...The phrase 'seen and heard' has always stayed with me, as an explanation for who I am, and what I do with who I am. When I received the letter from Tony Blair to say I was receiving a knighthood, it mean the country had said, 'We have seen you and we have heard you.' I found it beautiful."

**BEN KINGSLEY**
***Hotdog Magazine***

***Submitted by Ali Catterall.***

"We're like very delicate china right now," said star Jennifer Aniston, who plays Rachel in the show. "And we're going to smash into a million pieces," added Lisa Kudrow, who plays Phoebe in the show. "It's a deeper loss than I was expecting."

**BBC Online**

***Submitted by Andrew Rigby.***

*An occasional column devoted to gems from the acting profession. £10 paid for entries.*

## Number crunching

**£100,000,000**

■ amount Granada and Carlton claim will be saved for programme making by merging as united ITV

**£1000,000,000**

■ amount they blew last time they tried to work together on ITV digital

## JUST FANCY THAT!

Penny Hughes will this week be named as the chairwoman of Channel 4 by Media Secretary Tessa Jowell. Hughes, a former Coca-Cola executive, replaces Vanni Treves, who also chairs Equitable Life.

— *The* Observer, *Sunday 25 January.*

The multi-millionaire entrepreneur and owner of the Ivy restaurant, Luke Johnson, has been appointed chairman of Channel 4... Mr Johnson, 42, beat a field of candidates, including Penny Hughes, the former president of Coca-Cola UK...

— *The* Guardian, *Wednesday 28 January.*

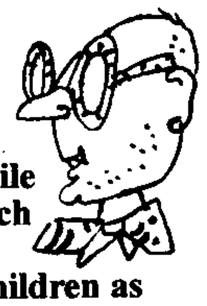
**BBC reporter Fergal Keane was recently sent to the southern United States, together with a London-based crew, to cover a single story at length for the *Ten O'Clock News*.**

This lavish treat was deposited on the "future transmission" shelf ready for air. It then disappeared.

As transmission drew ever nearer, other hacks were persuaded to edit their packages long to fill the 10-minute void. (So live reports were even longer and more pointless than usual.)

An investigation revealed that a jobsworth had taken it upon himself to clear out the cluttered tape room… and Keane's report had been wiped clean with a massive dose of magnetism.

## AD NAUSEAM



**WASHING powder manufacturer Procter & Gamble (P&G) is taking the "catch 'em while they're young" advertising approach to spectacular proportions, infiltrating the science lessons of children as young as 10.**

"Ariel, Stains & Science" packs have been sent to thousands of primary schools. They include a lesson plan on detergents in which pupils are to observe Ariel washing powder tablets dissolving before the teacher demonstrates how tablets remove stains with, er, Ariel.

Not satisfied with indoctrinating the children, the packs also target their parents. A small cardboard box is sent home with pupils labelled "Pupil Homework kit" and containing a sachet of tomato ketchup, a piece of white cotton, two tablets of Ariel and a laundry chart which parents are asked to help their children fill in for a week.

Although many schools have used the packs, teachers' organisations have reacted to P&G's "supporting science in schools" scheme with unalloyed horror: the Parent Teacher Council in Scotland, describing it as "nothing more than a cynical marketing ploy".

Offering scientific credence to the homework pack is Dr W.F. Dennison of Newcastle University. A letter from the good doctor is enclosed, assuring parents that the project is an "excellent opportunity" for their children. "PS," adds the letter, "If you would like to try Ariel tablets with Quickwash Action there's a sample in the pack. Just drop it in your drawer!"

**THE British Heart Foundation's latest anti-smoking campaign ad depicts cigarettes oozing globules of fat, which it tells us are like the mulch that will clog up our arteries if we smoke.**

"The brief was to be hard-hitting," said Betty McBride, the BHF's director of marketing. "Clogged arteries are the reality of what happens when you smoke." Up to a point.

Some experts are worried that although the condition highlighted, atherosclerosis, is linked to smoking, the mechanism by which the one causes the other is still debated. We all get fatty deposits in our arteries as we get older, so according to the ad's imagery, in reality even non-smokers might drip the occasional gobbet. Worse, the scene in which we cut to a pair of latex-clad hands squeezing goo from an artery in to a petri dish, like toothpaste from a tube, is highly exaggerated.

This may seem like nitpicking, but in advertising, shock value is not a limitless commodity – each oozing artery makes the next horrendous image less forceful, however well-intentioned.

**THE 2002 Could You? campaign for police recruitment was heavily criticised by the Tory party, which claimed that £2m had garnered just 400 extra bobbies.**

These claims were staunchly denied by both Labour and its agency M&C Saatchi. Now that the campaign is back for a new burst, it will be interesting to see if the Tories again attack the campaign. A founding partner of M&C Saatchi is none other than Milord Saatchi, now joint chairman of… the Tory party!

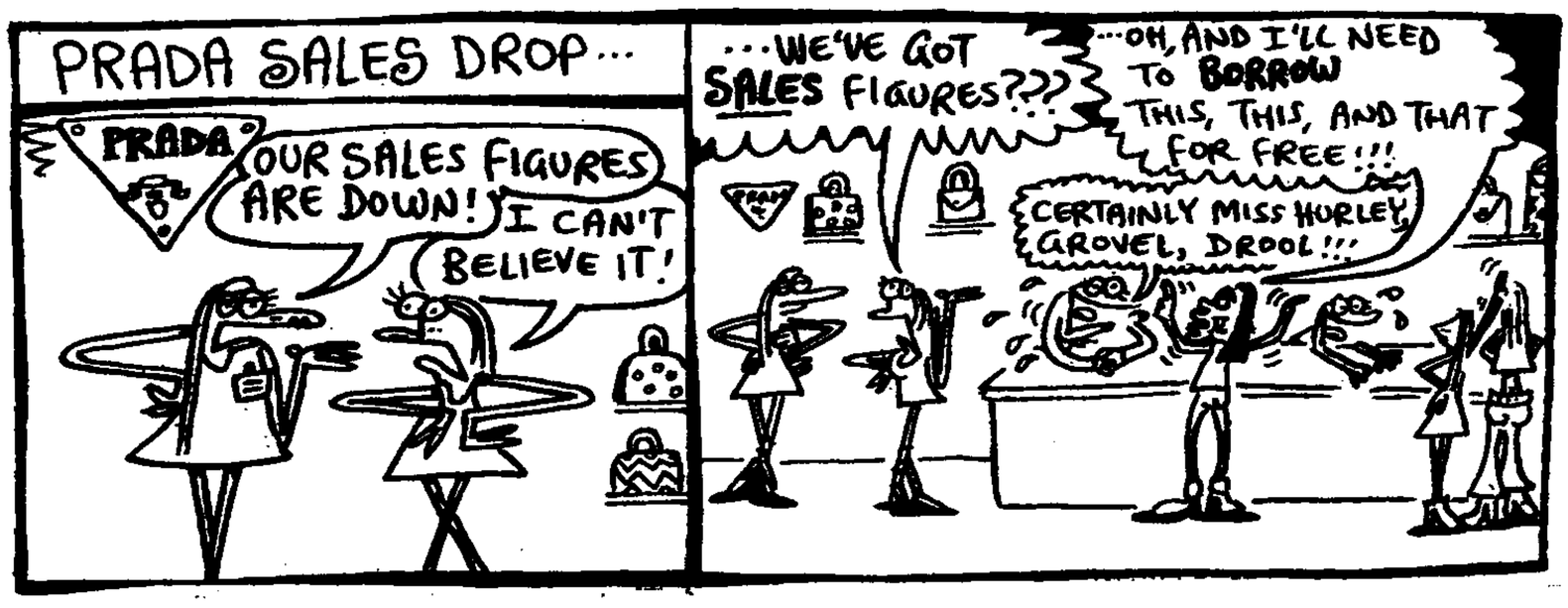
## JUST FANCY THAT!

"A lot of people are very critical of modern reproductive processes without fully understanding all the ins and outs."

— Lord Winston, *Today* programme

# SUPERMODELS

KERBER


PRADA SALES DROP...
PRADA
OUR SALES FIGURES ARE DOWN!
I CAN'T BELIEVE IT!
...WE'VE GOT SALES FIGURES???
...OH, AND I'LL NEED TO BORROW THIS, THIS, AND THAT FOR FREE!!!
CERTAINLY MISS HURLEY, GROVEL, DROOL!!!

## DOING THE ROUNDS

**"DR FARLEY was an old-style doctor who was operating in the new-style, Blairite system. Nowadays they run a few computer programs and decide what's wrong, which is completely at odds with the old-style, holistic approach."**

So said Gethin Jenkins, secretary of Leicestershire and Rutland local medical committee, on the death by suicide of GP Stephen Farley. Two doctors kill themselves every month, a rate of double the national average and higher even than weapons inspectors. But, Shipman aside, there is never a national inquiry. Suicide is just seen as part of an increasingly stressful job.

Dr Farley, 52, had been a GP for almost 25 years. He went missing during a walk from his home and his body was discovered on 23 January by a neighbour. He had previously had six weeks off work with depression, triggered by an investigation into his hospital referral rates by Charnwood and North Leicestershire Primary Care Trust. Charles Jones, practice manager at Ibstock House Surgery, said Dr Farley had suffered a desperate drop in self-esteem. "This is a terrible tragedy and one I believe could have been avoided. The trust believed he was referring too many patients for hospital treatment. We felt they were hounding him, almost persecuting him."

Politicians have always been troubled by variability among doctors, and in "new" Labour's NHS the pressure is on to ensure everyone conforms to guidelines and hits targets based on the best available evidence. There is also huge pressure to keep patients out of hospital and manage everyone in the community. But referral rates are notoriously hard to interpret fairly. Failure to refer is now the commonest reason for patient complaint and litigation against GPs, who in the current climate can hardly be blamed for practising defensively. Repeated studies have shown that high referral rates often occur in GPs who have a special interest in that area, and may be entirely appropriate.

Whatever the cause of Dr Farley's death, the stress of a three-year inquiry into his competence took its toll. M.D. has repeatedly argued that the single most important barrier to improvements in the NHS is endemic mental illness among the staff, an issue that receives virtually no media or political attention, and hence no resources. Indeed Blair's reform mantra of "harder and faster with no reverse gear" is likely to make the situation far worse. What patients most value, and what GPs get most fulfilment from giving, are time, empathy and hope – precisely the qualities that are being edged out in the obsessive target-hitting, measure-everything culture.

As one GP put it: "Yesterday I went to a meeting about preparing for the new contract. A couple of respected local colleagues gave a presentation on how to get the most out of it. They explained how they chased up patients via their repeat prescriptions, how their receptionists quizzed people about their smoking habits and they provided estimates of what they might earn if they hit all their targets.

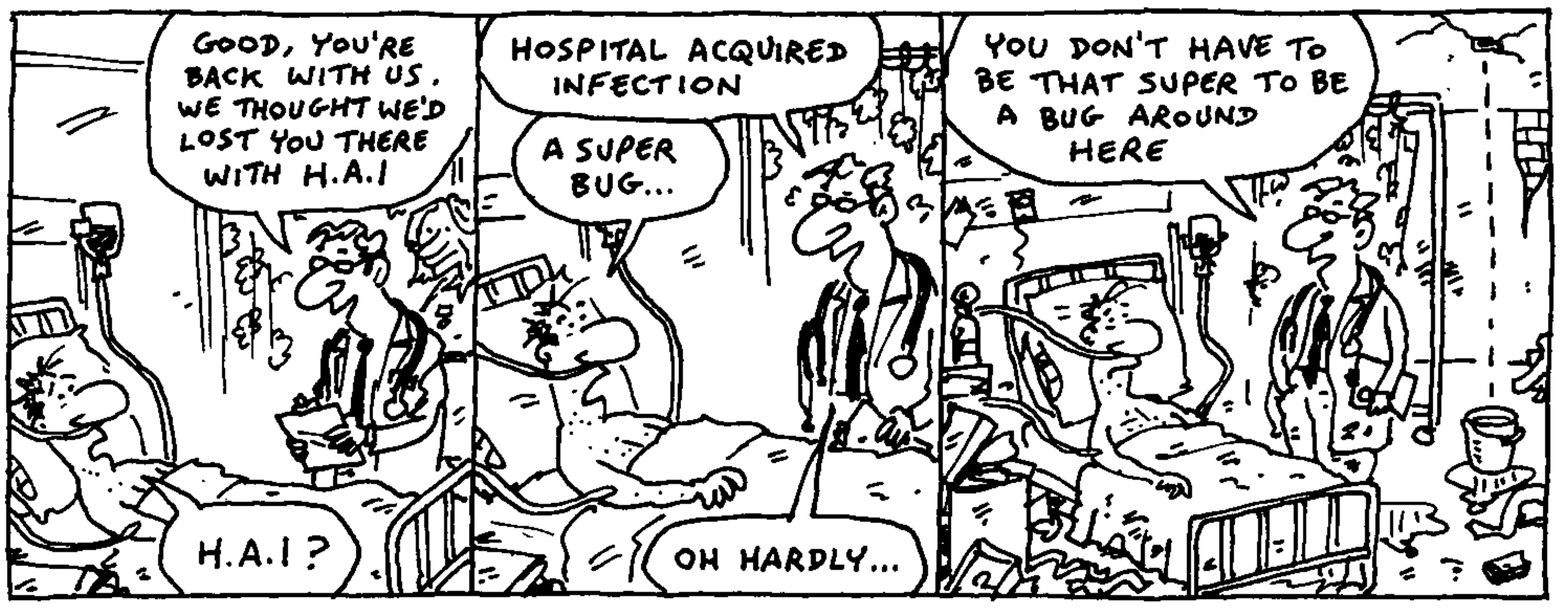
"The room was full of intelligent, hard working, earnest men and women, eager to do their utmost for their patients. But at best they were acting like a bunch of sales reps at a conference, learning how to get out there and flog the product, lapping up all the little tricks of the trade that previously no one knew of. At worst they were a bunch of performing seals, expected to jump through hoops and balance beach balls in the hope of someone chucking them a sprat as reward.

"What has my profession come to? "

*M.D.*

## off your trolley

REEVE & WAY


GOOD, YOU'RE BACK WITH US. WE THOUGHT WE'D LOST YOU THERE WITH H.A.I
H.A.I ?
HOSPITAL ACQUIRED INFECTION
A SUPER BUG...
OH HARDLY...
YOU DON'T HAVE TO BE THAT SUPER TO BE A BUG AROUND HERE

## SIGNAL FAILURES

### The dreaded R word

**WHY is renationalisation the one thing ruled out of transport secretary Alistair Darling's much-hyped review of the rail industry? He offered only two excuses, both red herrings.**

One was that the private sector "brings in" about £73m a week. Darling makes the private companies sound altruistic when all they're doing is using elaborate ways to lend money to the state – for bigger returns than if the state borrowed the money directly. A nationalised railway could borrow private money or lease equipment just as easily as a privatised one. Network Rail already proves that, being part-funded by bonds and directed and guaranteed by the state.

The other main area where private money is being "brought in" is the rolling stock companies, where some managers privately admit it would be cheaper for the state to buy trains than leasing at the extortionate rates the companies are free to charge (*Eye* 1087).

Train-operating franchises, which look likely to survive Darling's review, are "bringing in" practically nothing but taking out millions. Last year FirstGroup paid £22m for GB Railways, which had one nearly-expired franchise. FirstGroup assumed, wrongly, that GBR would win the successive franchise and paid about 10 times what GBR was worth. Happily FirstGroup can soon recover that money from its rail and bus passengers through higher fares. Instead of being "brought in" to the railway, that £22m has lined the pockets of GBR shareholders and made the top brass millionaires (*Eye* 1086).

Darling's second excuse was that "in many cases train companies have provided innovation that was conspicuously lacking in the past". He deliberately ignores British Rail's achievements with the 1970s high-speed train, the concept of tilting trains, the inter-city brand, computerised signal control, Thameslink and low-cost signalling for rural railways. The privatised railway has yet to come anywhere near that, and has provided no significant innovation that would have been beyond BR.

Privatisation put an end to nearly 200 years of railway research and development in Britain; most hardware now comes from foreign companies. The only area where the privatised railway has excelled at innovation is in creating jobs for bureaucrats.

Earlier this month the new "delay attribution board" – whose job is to apportion blame between bickering companies – got its chairman, after months of headhunting.

Darling's misinformation suggests his review isn't really to restructure the industry but to buy time and work out how the inefficient privatised railway will respond when the treasury caps rail funding in July. The review will be based on what the private rail companies want, and turkeys don't vote for Christmas. The industry's input will be handled by the "strategic" rail authority – which announced as recently as October that no further reshaping was needed. The long-suffering passengers (who might demand renationalisation) won't have a say.

The real "R" word "new" Labour dreads is not renationalisation but *responsibility*. It wants to exert control – "determine priorities" in Darling-speak – while passing the buck (as Darling did when announcing his review) for pisspoor services.

*'Dr B. Ching'*

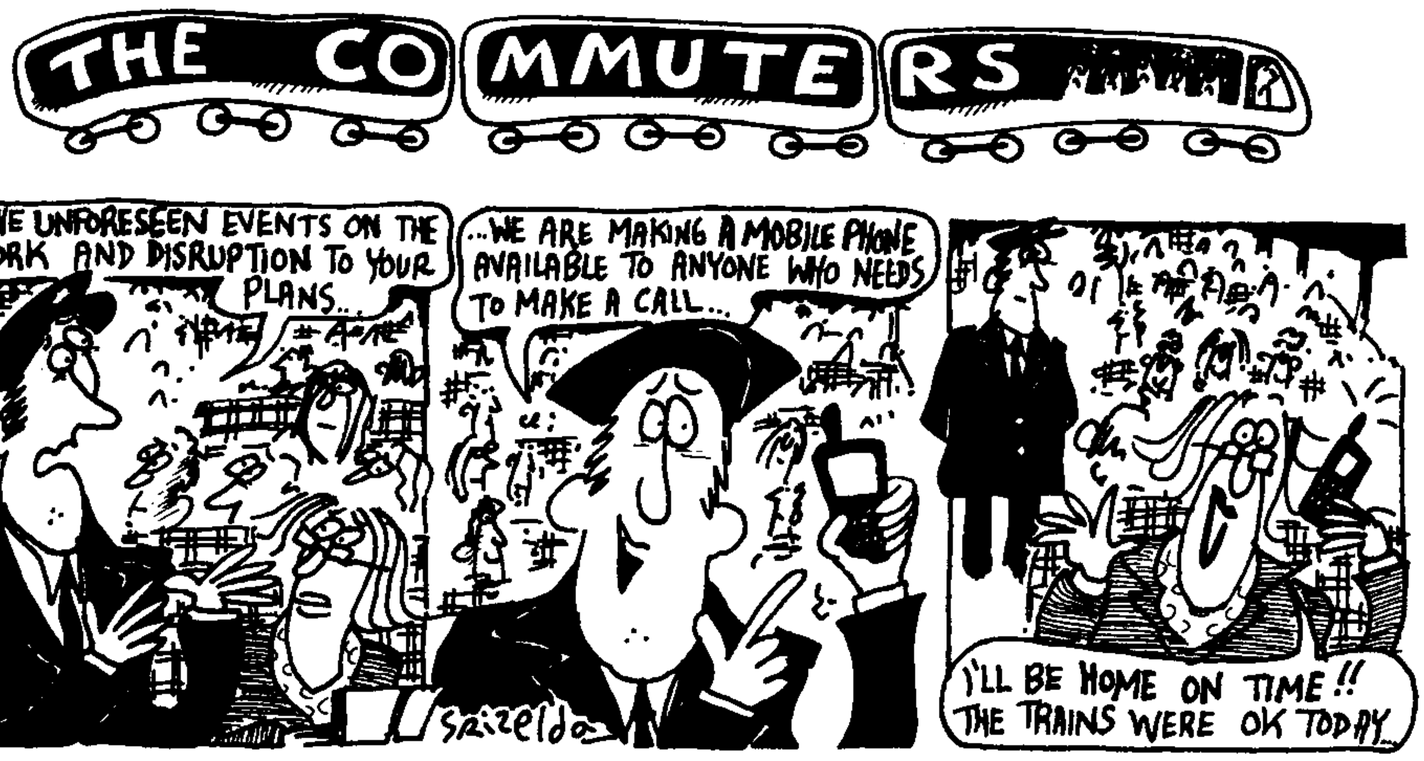
## ROAD RAGE

**THE pitifully small number of lorries using the new M6 toll road is an embarrassment to truckers' lobby group the Freight Transport Association, which spent 20 years predicting economic woe if hauliers didn't have a new road to use north of Birmingham.**

The FTA concedes that the road is "quiet at the moment" but says this suits the operators. Indeed it does – lorries cause far more wear and tear than cars; and keeping them off the private road means taxpayers foot the bill for more repairs to the old M6, on decaying stilts.

Meanwhile on the new M6 massive pools of water formed at Langley Mill on 19 January causing several car accidents and prompting urgent roadworks lasting a week. Meanwhile, speed restrictions had to be imposed, significantly increasing journey times on the supposedly quick route. On 10 January two lanes of the southbound carriageway had to be closed because of unevenness, requiring another 10 days of roadworks!

*'Hedgehog'*


THE COMMUTERS
DUE TO THE UNFORESEEN EVENTS ON THE NETWORK AND DISRUPTION TO YOUR PLANS...
...WE ARE MAKING A MOBILE PHONE AVAILABLE TO ANYONE WHO NEEDS TO MAKE A CALL...
I'LL BE HOME ON TIME!! THE TRAINS WERE OK TODAY
Grizelda

## ROTTEN BOROUGHS

# ETHICS MAN

IN MAY last year we reported how the Standards Board for England (SBE), the watchdog meant to police councillors' behaviour, was investigating an allegation against David Scott, a Tory councillor on East Northamptonshire district council (ENDC).

Scott, a wealthy businessman, represents Dryden ward, home of the publican Geoff Monks who suffered a series of vindictive food safety prosecutions by ENDC which resulted in record fines, a prison sentence and the loss of his business (*Eyes passim*). Scott's response to Monks's difficulties was not to try to assist or defend him but to offer to buy his pub at a knock-down price "now that the figures are so down".

The SBE spent six months investigating the allegation that Scott had "brought his office or authority into disrepute and improperly secured an advantage for himself" contrary to the local government code of conduct. Last week it produced its report. Scott, it revealed, admitted making two offers to Monks "based on the value of the property itself and the fact the pub was not doing particularly well". But the board found nothing to criticise in this.

The SBE's "ethical standards officer" had seen "no evidence that Cllr Scott was involved in the council's decision to prosecute... or that he instructed council officers to inspect the pubs... [and] was therefore satisfied that [he] did not act improperly or bring his office or authority into disrepute". No further action required. So that's what they mean by restoring "confidence in local democracy"!

**● *EYE* 1022 reported that the dirty tricks suffered by Durham cobbler Tony Martin during his one-man war against the former Labour regime in the city included a threat that he would "have his legs broken". Martin now reveals that he was later confronted as he left his shop one night by a thug with a baseball bat. Martin claims he got in his punch first, relieved his assailant of the bat and, after applying it to the thug's kneecap, elicited the information that he had been paid £200 by a senior figure in the Durham Labour party to attack the cobbler. The full story is told in a book Martin is writing, *Cobblers to the Council*.**

# EYE EARNER

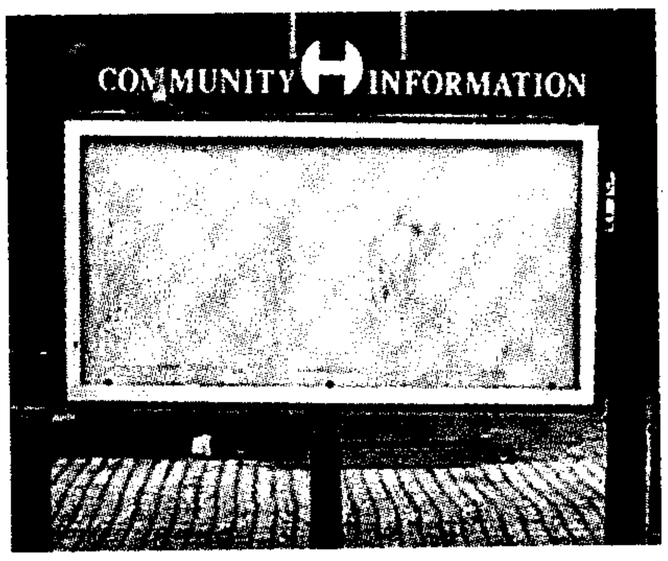
NOTHING succeeds in Doncaster like a mention in the *Eye*, it seems, for upping your council salary.

Mayor Martin Winter, whom readers will recall recently took delivery of a £25,800 Mercedes courtesy of a local car dealer (*Eye* 1093), is to receive an almost 50 percent rise taking his wages from £41,808 to £62,608. (Deputy mayor Aidan Rave gets a £10,000 upgrade to £36,608 and both rises will be backdated to April 2003.)

Thirty-six percent increases have been doled out to senior officers, taking their pay from £85,000 to £105,000. Among those *Eye* favourites who will benefit are former local Labour party apparatchik Keith Miller, the drinks carrier on many of Donnygate's infamous foreign junkets. (He once took his mistress on a trip to Portugal; and on another occasion pocketed a £500 "wedding gift" from an admiring local developer.)

Miller also wrote the report advocating the funding of Kerbside Collection, a hideously expensive but floundering environmental scheme which, as *Eye* 1058 pointed out, employed both Winter's wife and one of his many companies. So far £1.4m has been thrown at the project.

Another officer to benefit will be social services chief Mervyn Thomas, whose department funds Doncaster Age Concern to the tune of £500,000 a year. *Eye* 1048 reported how, over an 18-month period, some 204 assisted shopping visits had been undertaken for oldies – at a cost of £245 per trip. The local director of Age Concern is Vicky Ferres, aka Mrs Mervyn Thomas.




**Hackney Town Hall noticeboard**

**● AN EARLY nomination for Rotten Boroughs' "Spinner of the Year" award is Bath's tourism chief, Jan Siegieda, who maintains that the shambles of the city's £26m bath Spa project – four years late with 10 opening dates missed – is actually good news for the city. Mr Siegieda told the *Bath Chronicle*: "I think it is great that the Spa is shut. The longer it stays shut the better. The fact that it is shut is making people more interested and more and more people are finding out about it. In a strange sort of way, it is working in our favour."**

**PS: Cracks have now appeared in the four columns supporting the open air rooftop pool. Fantastic news!**

# GALA WAGS

SO FAREWELL, then, Colin Shearsmith, former chief executive of Durham city council, who departed in something of a hurry on 31 December with a cheque for £128,000 in his pocket and an enhanced pension.

"I hope you agree with me that the city has made significant progress during the last six years," he wrote in his goodbye letter to staff. Regular readers of the *Eye* over that period will no doubt agree. Apart from a series of scandals detailed in this column ranging through land deals, sex, theft, blackmail and racism among councillors and staff during Shearsmith's watch, his tenure brought the council to the edge of bankruptcy through its involvement in the grandiose Millennium City scheme.

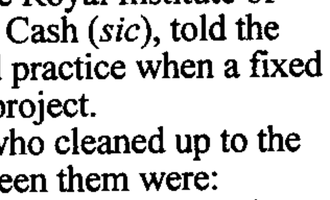
Centrepiece of the MC is the £14m Gala Theatre, Shearsmith's pet project, which had the distinction of going bust *before* it was officially opened by the Queen in 2002. The theatre's operating loss for its first full year of trading was £900,000, while that for the current year will be around £700,000. The Gala's accounts reveal that last year income from *The Sacred Journey* – a dire £1m "visitor experience" film about the life of St Cuthbert, commissioned from Shearsmith's tennis pal Brendan Quayle without being put out to tender – amounted to just £7,314.

With some 700 screenings a year, that works out at ticket sales of some £10 a time. Or, put another way, an average audience of just two lonely people in a specially constructed large-format cinema. Shearsmith's sudden departure is believed to be not unrelated to an impromptu staff party at the Gala on Halloween, which ended in one young reveller being taken to hospital in an ambulance. Council wags say it was by far the most entertaining night at the Gala since it opened.

# ENDORSEMENT OF THE WEEK

*"I hope that sane-minded people in this borough do not subscribe to Private Eye. If they do then they should get a life."* – Cllr Helal Abbas, leader of Tower Hamlets council, speaking at the council meeting of 21 January.

## EDUCASHUN NEWZ



**AN investigation into how refurbishment of Charter school in Dulwich, a mixed comprehensive, soared from an original estimate of £4.5m in 1999 to more than £22m three years later, has found that no one at all is to blame.**

The London borough of Southwark's auditors have concluded that "systems failures" were responsible for the £18m overspend. The auditors have, however, recommended that this sort of thing really shouldn't be allowed to happen again – a view endorsed by councillors, none of whom apparently believes there is any need to ask the district auditor to investigate such a trifling waste of money at what was hitherto described by the council as a "flagship" school.

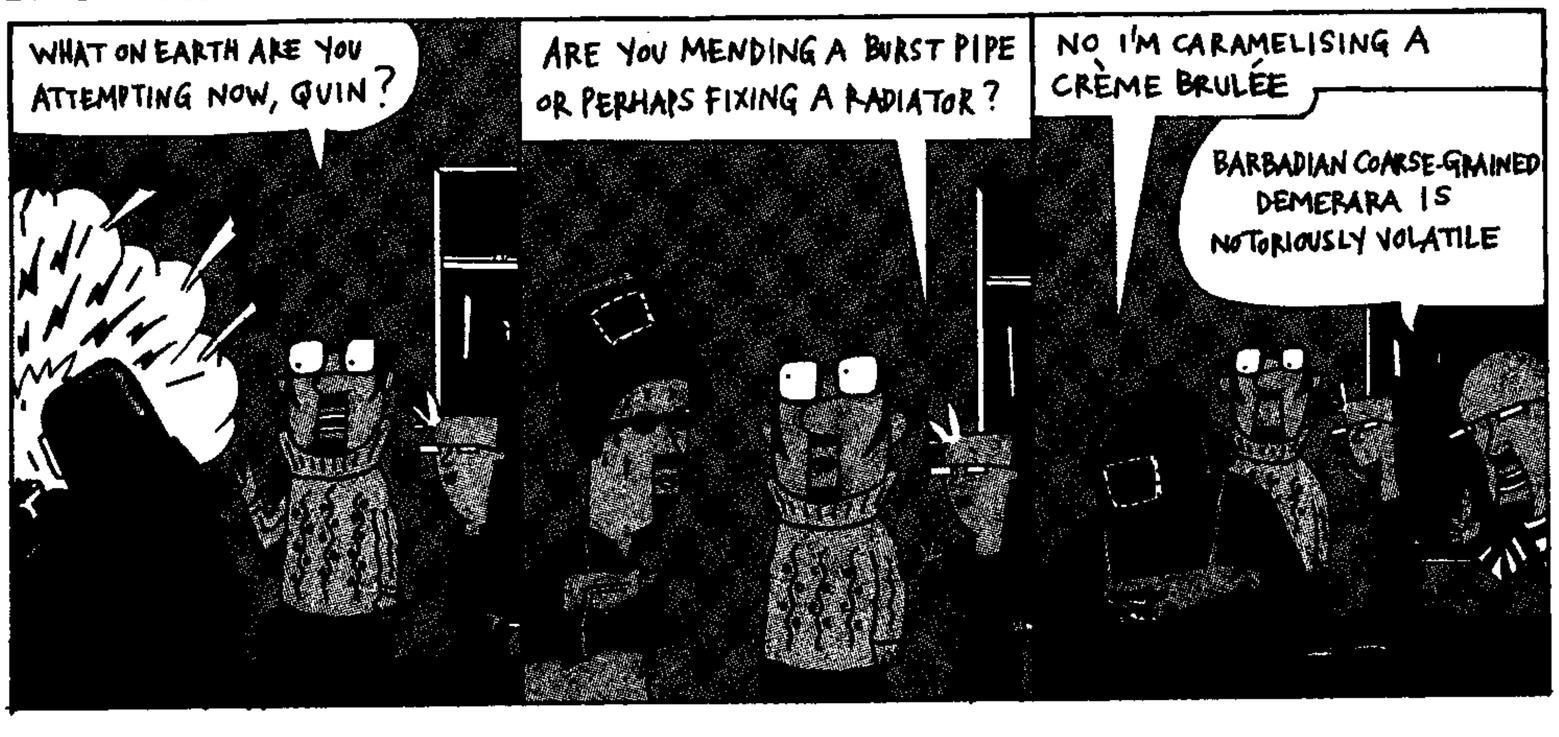
Taxpayers may be out of pocket but the ubiquitous "consultants" have done very nicely, thank you. Despite it being normal practice for consultants in such projects to have their fees fixed before work commences, the wise owls in Southwark town hall instead agreed that they should be paid based on a fixed percentage of the final cost of the project, with no cap or ceiling: which as a spokesman for the Royal Institute of Chartered Surveyors, Simon Cash (*sic*), told the *Southwark News*, is standard practice when a fixed price is not agreed before a project.

Among the consultants who cleaned up to the tune of more than £3m between them were: quantity Surveyors Franklin & Andrews; architects Penoyre & Prasad; structural engineers Babtie; landscape architects Watkins Dally and project managers Osprey.

The work was of such a high standard that an extra £3.5m had to be found to remove asbestos from classroom walls which an initial survey had failed to spot. Other highlights include: moving some office furniture (original estimate £10,000, final bill £100,000); and the "oversight" of not including the price of desks (always handy in a school) or computers in the original budget.

As a result of the £18m overspend 28 other schools in Southwark had funding for a range of improvements suspended. Indeed, so poor is Southwark's education service that more than 200 children in the borough are without any school place at all.

**IT'S GRIM UP NORTH LONDON** KNIFE & PACKER


WHAT ON EARTH ARE YOU ATTEMPTING NOW, QUIN?
ARE YOU MENDING A BURST PIPE OR PERHAPS FIXING A RADIATOR?
NO I'M CARAMELISING A CRÈME BRULÉE
BARBADIAN COARSE-GRAINED DEMERARA IS NOTORIOUSLY VOLATILE

# NOOKS and CORNERS

**DISPLAYING the financial acumen which has won them such wonderful publicity in the past, the church commissioners are about to indulge in another bout of asset-stripping.**

All those bishops' palaces – often in prime city-centre locations with nice views of medieval cathedrals and meadows – could be worth £80m. In these Blairite times they are far too grand for a modern cleric. So, in response to a report in 2001 on the "suitability" of bishops' accommodation, some 44 such historic buildings will probably be sold.

Obvious candidates include Auckland Castle at Bishop's Auckland, begun by the prince bishops of Durham in the 12th century. As a home it is inconvenient (it's bigger than a suburban house and not actually in Durham); but it could make a first-class tourist hotel.

But what a shame the Church of England seems to believe its own "new" Labourish rhetoric. For bishop's palaces aren't grand places to swank about in. Usually the bishop lives in a flat in a large, rambling historic building which is used for other purposes and so serves the community: the grandeur has purpose.

More to the point, these palaces are ancient, historic monuments which express the histories of their sees and are often physically linked with the eponymous cathedral. If the CofE can see no value in its past, what is the point of it continuing as the Established Church – or, indeed, as a church at all?

Moreover, it may not even raise the cash optimistically estimated by estate agent Knight Frank. These are mostly listed buildings, not necessarily adaptable and usually in poor shape as little has been spent on them for decades. The church commissioners can cheerfully lose £800m on a shopping development, but begrudge spending a mere £3.4m to maintain and staff bishops' accommodation. Selling the church's historic patrimony is not going to solve the problem of funding the miserable and threatened pensions of long-suffering ordinary clergy.

ONE prelate who I am sure will not relish losing his grand residence is the warmongering Bishop of Rochester: the Right Rev Dr Michael "Asil-Nadir" – the one with the sideburns who likes being driven about in limousines.

Such consciousness of his own status has not inhibited Nazir-Ali from making sure his clergy do not live in handsome, traditional houses, as the saga of Penshurst Rectory (Eyes passim) has shown.

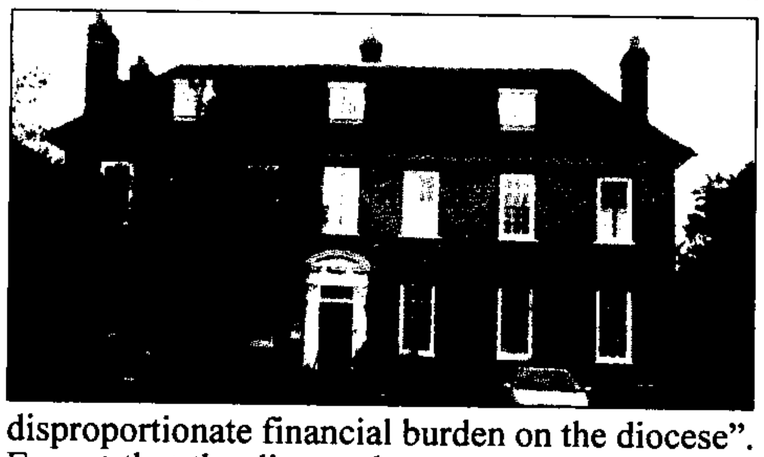
This is a lovely building with an early 18th century brick front, close to the church and to glorious Penshurst Place. The devious Rochester Diocesan Society and Board of Finance wants to sell it and build a nice new five-bedroom detached house with double garage on adjacent glebe land – a mediocre, alien thing which might be anywhere.

The village wants the rector to live in the old Rectory, as does the rector – except that he isn't a rector any more: the bishop made sure he was appointed as a mere priest-in-charge with no freehold so the house could be sold over his head.

While a petition was signed by 150 villagers and contemptuously dismissed, an offer by Viscount de l'Isle to buy the old Rectory and lease it back to the parish was rudely rejected. In 2001 Sevenoaks district council refused planning permission, but the church commissioners appealed and the decision was overturned by the planning inspectorate. Last year, as a temporary sop to a furious village, the diocese pretended to be interested in buying a smaller house in the High Street as a new rectory, but then dithered until the parish church council, after meeting the diocesan surveyor, decided it wasn't a good idea after all. Now it's back to the original plan and Penshurst is resigned to the imminent arrival of the bulldozers.

Why has the diocese persisted with this destructive scheme which has alienated most parishioners? The board of finance thinks the old Rectory is a valuable property.

Although in Penshurst, as elsewhere, those big rooms were also enjoyed by the village, it argued that it was unsuitable as a rectory as its size and age "imposes unrealistic demands upon the modest stipend of the incumbent and a



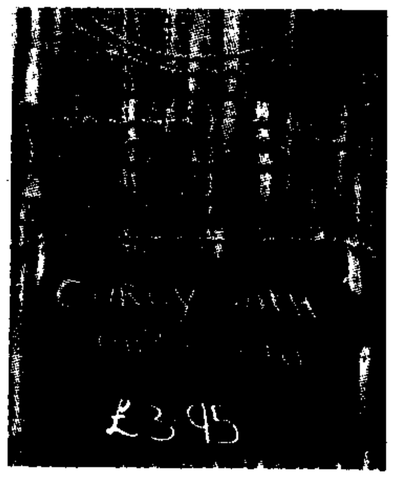
disproportionate financial burden on the diocese". Except that the diocese has not spent any money on it at all and so it may not fetch the large sum hoped for.

The church's general policy on vicarages has been as stupid financially as it is pastorally: usually the neglected old building has been sold for a song, and the killing is made by the new private owner after restoration. But in Penshurst of course there will be the new Rectory as well: a nice, modern executive home in a lovely setting in a picturesque old village. Ought to be worth a fortune.

There will be covenants restricting occupancy to the rector. But what if there is no rector? At present, Penshurst is a united benefice with Fordcombe, but it could soon be linked to other parishes and the priest-in-charge could live elsewhere. If that happens, the new parsonage house will be surplus to requirements and might prove a useful speculation. Aren't the church commissioners clever!

*'Piloti'*

# I-SPY



***Tenby* (above) *and Hampstead* (right)**

**Submitted by Martin Ryan and Chris Burrows.** £10 paid for similar submissions. *(SAE required for return of photographs)*

# MUSIC & MUSICIANS

**AS IF the classical recording industry didn't have enough to cope with these days as no one wants to buy its wares, W.H. Smith – the nearest thing left in Britain to a high-street retailer of middle-class culture – has decided it will no longer stock classical CDs.**

This means the average Saturday afternoon shopper will find it even harder to track down an hour of Mozart or Beethoven on disc; and as for an hour of Maxwell Davies or Birtwistle, well, forget it.

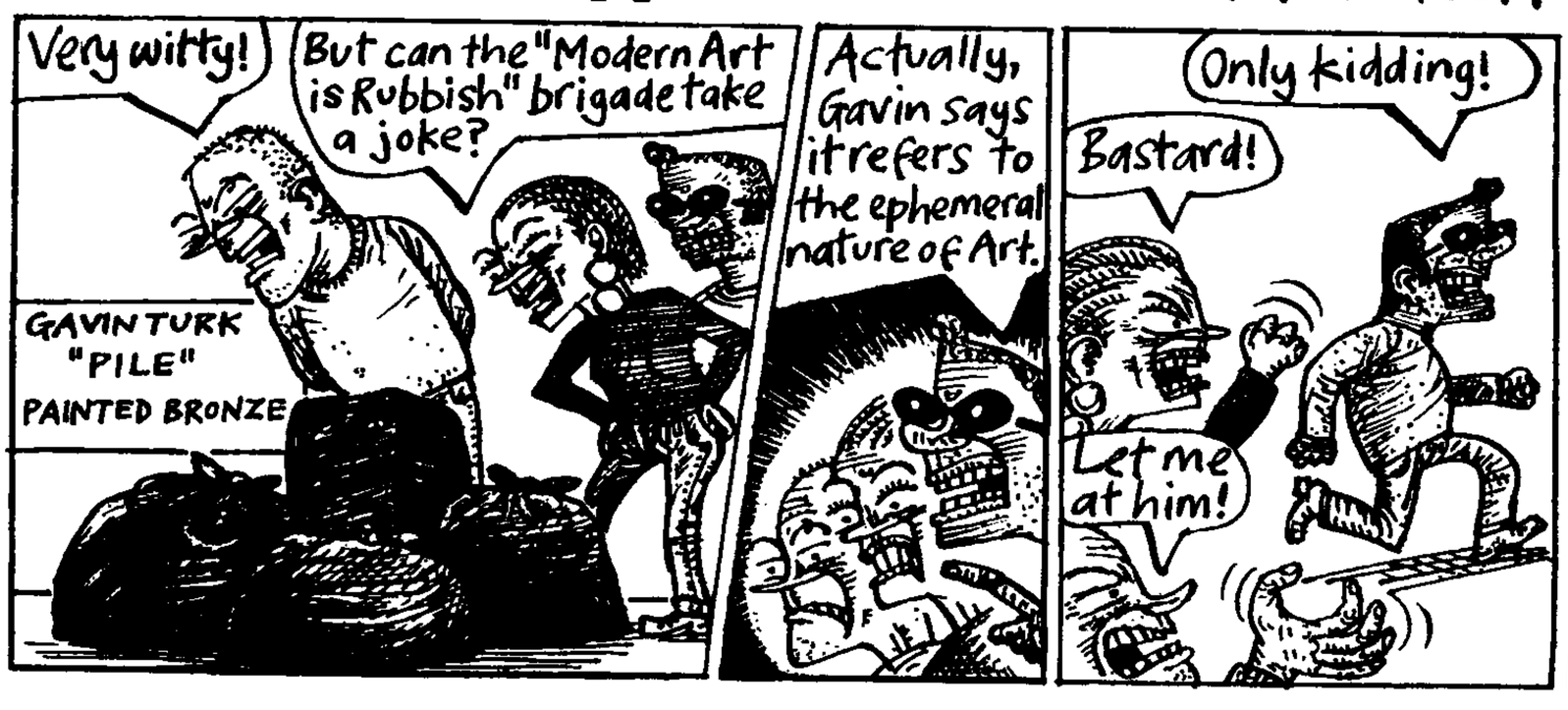
"Commercially short-sighted idiocy", fumed one senior record company boss (strictly *off* the record) last week. "Smith's have already reduced their classical stock to token levels, so we saw it coming. But it says nothing for their credibility as retailers or their service to the community. They'll regret this."

For the moment regret lies solely with the CD companies who know that, quite apart from the immediate financial damage, the Smith's decision will give added volume to the music world's professional harbinger of doom Norman Lebrecht, who fills tracts of the *Evening Standard* every week with confident predictions that the end is nigh for classical recording. "You'd think the little creep was looking forward to it," said the same off-record boss.

But just for once Lebrecht appears to have a point. The industry *is* on its knees. Top-rank recording artists like the pianist Leif Ove Andsnes are only making one CD a year. Opera recordings are almost a thing of the past: too expensive to contemplate given the likely sales. And to make one telling comparison with that past, in the old days Herbert von Karajan's contract for discs with the Berlin Philharmonic used to encompass 25 releases a year. His successor at the Philharmonic, Simon Rattle, has a contract that amounts to three.

# YOUNG BRITISH ARTISTS

BY BIRCH


Very witty!
But can the "Modern Art is Rubbish" brigade take a joke?
GAVIN TURK
"PILE"
PAINTED BRONZE
Actually, Gavin says it refers to the ephemeral nature of Art.
Only kidding!
Bastard!
Let me at him!

# 7 Number crunching

- days notice meteorologists gave of approaching freeze
- train operators were unable to offer a service when it arrived
- London underground lines ground to a halt
- hour traffic delays around Birmingham because of insufficient gritting

# DOWN ON THE FARM

**BEN BRADSHAW, the hopeless farming minister, has come up with another brilliant idea. He has paid a large sum of public money to a firm called Risk Solution Ltd to produce a cost-benefit analysis on the methods which might be used to tackle another foot-and-mouth epidemic.**

This, he says, with his usual gift for language, will "refine the Decision Tree" on "which disease option to use". The idea that it might be necessary to spend taxpayers' money to establish the most cost-effective way to tackle a foot-and-mouth epidemic will produce a hollow laugh from John O'Groats to Cornwall.

All Mr Bradshaw need do is call for the cuttings on what happened in 2001, when his officials opted for their favourite method of coping with all animal diseases (ie kill as many animals as possible), get out an envelope and write down the following figures. "Animals killed in 2001: say 9 million. Cost to economy of government's FMD policy: say £9 billion. Cost of slaughter policy per animal, £1,000."

On the other side of the envelope he should write down: "Emergency vaccination: cost per animal 50p." He should then get out his calculator and write: "Cost saved per animal by using vaccination: £999.50." Finally, he should write: "Finding of cost benefit analysis carried out by Mr Bradshaw: that vaccination would be the cheaper of the two options", announce it to the House of Commons, and he could throw himself back on the frontbench, flushed and pink-cheeked with pride to universal cries of "Bradshaw for PM".

Alas for such dreams, Bradshaw's cost-benefit analysis is no more than the most cynical window dressing. The officials who gave him this proposal to read out know perfectly well that the cost of the botched and illegal mass-slaughter policy in 2001 constituted a waste of money as crazy as any in Britain's history. They know that the power to dictate the handling of any future FMD epidemic has now been handed in toto to the EU food safety commissioner in Brussels, so that whatever the British government thinks is no longer relevant.

Most important of all, they know that an EU directive introduced by commissioner David Byrne has now laid down that the first option in tackling any future epidemic will be vaccination. In other words, the only mystery is why Mr Bradshaw should choose to throw away so much taxpayers' money on trying to pretend he has any choice in the matter.

The explanation lies in the fact that, thanks not least to the propaganda formerly put out by his own ministry, his officials believe vaccination is so distrusted by the farming community that there might be wholesale resistance if it were introduced. They have therefore told Bradshaw it would be wise to carry out this charade of a "cost-benefit analysis" to demonstrate to farmers that it would be more sensible to vaccinate. The tragedy is that, with the exception of Ben Gill and the discredited NFU, the farmers already know this, so the whole exercise is unnecessary. But at least Risk Solution Ltd will be happy to cooperate in coming to such a predictable conclusion.

*'Muckspreader'*

# ENERGY UPDATE

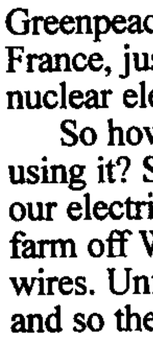
**VIRTUOUS consumers of "green" electricity in Britain use the company called Juice ("the power of nature") as recommended by Greenpeace. But those living in the London area discovered from their latest bill that in the event of "loss of supply," they should telephone to EDF Energy Networks.**

"That's something French, isn't it," said Greenpeace. It is indeed: EDF is Electricité de France, just about the world's biggest producer of nuclear electricity.

So how does it come about that the Greens are using it? Said the Juice spokesman: "We obtain our electricity from the North Hoyle offshore wind farm off Wales but we do not own the distribution wires. Unfortunately, EDF own London Electricity and so they own the wires in the London area. We pay them to transport electricity to you and there is nothing you or I can do about it because there is only one network and you have to use the people who own it."

So privatisation has resulted in the network being denationalised, freed from state control and put up for sale... only to be snapped up by the state-owned electricity authority of France! People in the London area using clean, renewable electricity from a windfarm are thus forced to contribute to the profits of a nuclear rival on the other side of the Channel. Merde alors! as they say in France.

# UNDER THE MICROSCOPE



**AFTER the miserable loss of the British Beagle 2 Mars Lander, the European Space Agency (ESA) can be forgiven for crowing about the success of its Martian orbiter – a box of gubbins called Mars Express. But can this excuse some of the stories that have emerged recently?**

For example, 10 days ago we learned that Mars Express had "discovered water" on Mars for the first time. This must have been about the dozenth time water has been "discovered" on Mars.

The astronomer Cassini saw ice at the poles in 1666 (though he had no way of proving it was water ice, of course). In the 1970s Nasa's Viking probes measured the temperature of the Martian ice caps and showed conclusively that the bulk of them could not be frozen carbon dioxide – dry ice – as had been thought by some scientists. Instead they must be made of water.

Then in 2002 another Mars probe called Odyssey used a gamma ray spectrometer to detect huge quantities of water ice all over the Martian surface. This was duly reported in the press – once in March and again in the summer. Each time it was the same: "Water found on Mars!"

Given that coloured lens filters have also been used to make pictures of the Red Planet look redder, or bluer, these days even Mars isn't immune from being "sexed up", it seems.

*'Boffin'*

## The Future Of Shopping

**Jeffrey Donaldson, who was speaking for the first time as a DUP MP, declared that the "vast majority of unionists will not want a party in government that is engaged in political activities."**

*Belfast Telegraph*

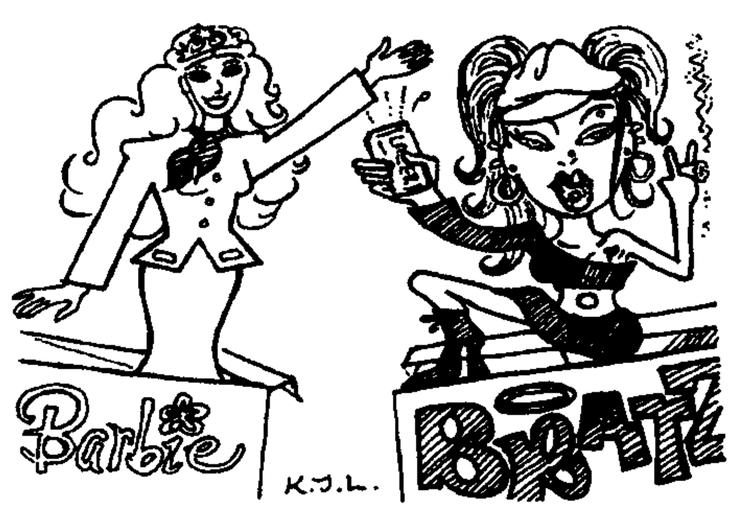
# Pseuds Corner

Music is being detached from the unsynthesised manifold.

**GERMAINE GREER on John Cage's 4.33 minutes of silence, broadcast by Radio Three, *Late Review***

**Even happy, this actor-comedian's face [Bill Murray] can resemble a punchball after a heavy workout. Unhappy, it seems to dislimn and deliquesce, elegiacally, like a painting placed near a fire. Add to this a voice that turns the hectic hum of humanity into a poignant single-voice chorus for lost souls. Add to these a frazzled walk with a faint perpendicular sway, suggesting that at times the apogee of human ambition is just to reach the next doorknob.**

**NIGEL ANDREWS**
***Financial Times***




In toy terms, this is an upheaval on the same scale as the fall of the Berlin Wall.

**CHARLES LAURENCE on the displacement of Barbie by the Bratz doll, *Sunday Telegraph***

*In this exhibition, it is the curators of the exhibition who are on display. Cutting out the middlemen/ artists allows the viewing public to directly interact with them. As curators we felt compelled to eliminate the artist from the equation so as to explore other criteria...This show/work is an opportunity to bring together a few of the predominating themes of this experimental London-based art gallery:*
*1 The idea that the exhibition produces the work*
*2 The nature of a show, as one of flux and change*
*3 The performative aspect of art/life understood as a profound self-conscious focus into the nature of human intercourse*
*4 The notion of the gallery as an interface or nodal point where paths cross, ideas collide and texts, human as well as literal, may undergo synthesis.*

**Invitation to New York opening of The Curators**

We should stop seeing libraries as places of functions – storing this, lending that, checking the other – and more as places of free and shared exploration and learning via all media, a democratic space wherein to free your mind.

**JOHN DOLAN (Head of Birmingham Library Service), Letter to *The Times***

# Pseuds Corporate

**Practical brand husbandry**

Speaker: Dave Cobban, Planning Director, A Vision

Brands are like all living things. They are born; they grow; they need nurturing; they have adolescent issues; they mature; they go to work; they have relationships; they give birth; they grow old and decrepit; they die or are reborn. Who is your brand? What is it like? What personality does it have? What qualities does it possess?

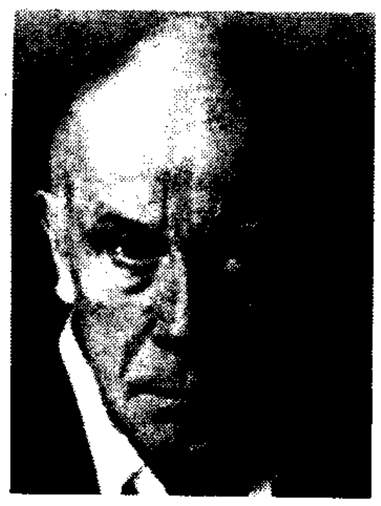
**Course advertised by the Arts Marketing Association**

CONTRIBUTORS: Bruce Paley, Philip Goulding, Angharad Penrhyn Jones, Merith Godwin-Greer, Tessa Codrington, David Cook

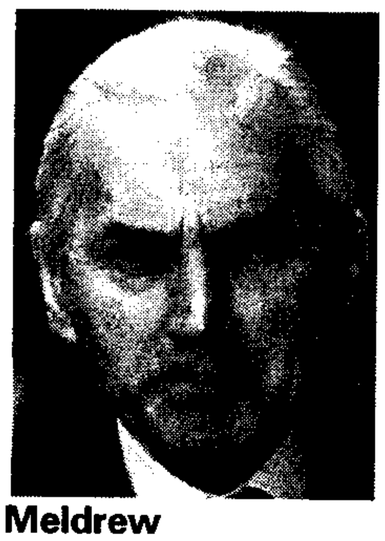
# Letters

Private Eye

## Lookalike



Hutton



Meldrew

*Sir,*

*Listening to the clipped tones of Lord Hutton delivering his report, I was struck by his vocal similarity to Victor Meldrew.*

*"I don't believe it!" That was Victor's catchphrase. How appropriate.*

*Are they by any chance related?*

*MARTIN FOOKES,*

*Via email.*

## Kelly's zeros

*Sir,*

*In Number Crunching on p25 of 1097, you show David Kelly at the bottom of a micro rich list with a £60,000 pension. David Kelly was 59 years old and married. Assuming the pension covered both the lives of himself and his wife and was linked to inflation, a fund of about £1.47m would be required to provide this level of income. So you should have shown him at the top of the list above Campbell's £1m.*

*DR TIM SHORT,*

*Pimlico.*

## Student digs

*Sir,*

*I have little sympathy with the Plymouth students who are paying £80pw (High Principals, Eye 1098.)*

*There are three rooms in my house that, up until a few years ago were occupied by university students. Then I decided, rather than relying on word of mouth, I would register with the University Accommodation Bureau, only to be told that a 20-minute walk to campus was too far for the students so I could not be considered. As I only charge £40pw all in, who is the loser?*

*ADDRESS & NAME WITHHELD.*

## Crash course

*Sir,*

*I subscribe to the Eye because I expect informed, investigative reporting not articles spouting politically correct government half-truths.*

*Your article "Crash Course" (1098) is particularly uninformed. Inappropriate speed is a factor in only about 7 percent of road accidents (see Transport Research Laboratory report 323) or as Avon and Somerset police figures show only 6 percent of road accidents involve exceeding the speed limit. The 33 percent figure comes from lumping in other factors that conveniently build to a nice round one-third figure. This is used by government to try to convince voters that they are doing something about road safety when in fact they will not spend the money necessary to do something significant. Speed cameras are not going to address the other 93 percent of accidents.*

*Where on earth does the 3mph over 40 evidence come from? This statement is complete and utter nonsense. Even if a road has had a speed limit applied using sound traffic engineering principles (eg the 85th percentile rule that is rarely done in this country), studies show such a small deviation in speed will not result in any measurable increase in casualties.*

*If any of you drive you must know that every driver makes at least one mistake every time they drive. Some of these tragically result in deaths, but should you really lock someone up for 14 years for an honest mistake when deliberate murderers get less?*

*ADRIAN KERTON,*

*Stoke Gifford.*

*Sir,*

*...The best research available seems to indicate that excess speed is the causal factor in about 3 percent of accidents and that drunk driving is about seven times more important – causing 20 percent. Excess speed makes – depending who you ask or how you ask the question – from 30 percent to 60 percent of accidents worse than they would otherwise have been... but it isn't often a cause.*

*A car kills very nearly as effectively at 40mph as it does at 43mph. A drunk driver kills many times more effectively than a sober driver. Guess which one can pass a GATSO camera with impunity?*

*Yours eye,*
*MARK HODSON,*

*London EC1.*

*Sir,*

*...Thanks to proliferate speed cameras engaged in mass-fining of motorists, for largely technical offences, and the government's belief that this will address the number of road deaths, the presence of traffic police is being reduced. It is the police who can identify real careless and dangerous driving and unroadworthy vehicles, not an indiscriminate camera. This is why there has been no significant reduction in deaths in recent years.*

*You accept without question the lie that inappropriate speed is a factor in a third of accidents, yet the Transport Research Laboratory's own report (TRL323) cites this as 7 percent. The magic one third figure is obtained by including, collisions caused by "following too close", "careless/reckless driving" and "sudden braking" among other causes linked spuriously to "speed".*

*Yours faithfully,*
*JAMES BROOKS,*

*Hyde, Cheshire.*

*Sir,*

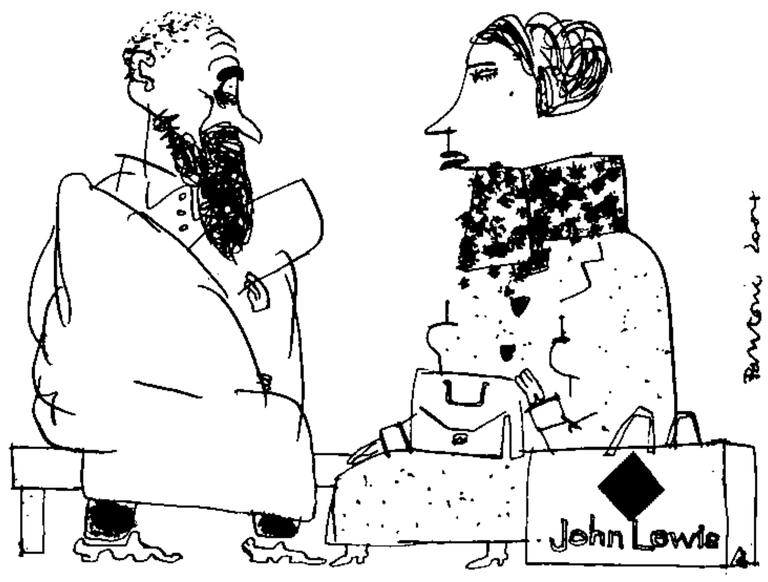
*...In addition to what may be a misapplication of statistics, the article manages to drag in "Won't someone think of the children?" and also the Misleading Vividness fallacy: Citing an instance of a tragic incident in which the driver appears to have been criminally negligent and thoroughly out of control of his vehicle, never mind his speed, the writer invites us to tar all speeding offences with the same brush. This is obvious nonsense.*

*A driver who was "not even visible behind the wheel" and therefore apparently unable to see the road would be life-threatening, even at a legal speed. A driver 10mph over a 70mph limit on a deserted dual carriageway in perfect driving conditions would not be, even at an illegal speed. 2/10, see me.*

*DOUGLAS PORTER,*

*Bridgham, Norfolk.*

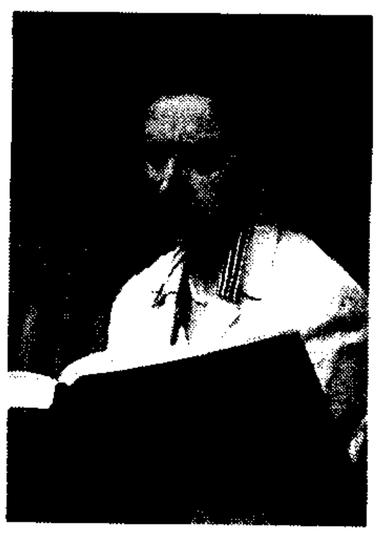
## Scenes You Seldom See




*"Homeless? Our son's doing a gap year in Australia, so you could sleep in his room"*

## Lookalike

Beckett



Mrs Tweedy

*Sir,*

*Is it me or does the Environment Secretary Margaret Beckett look like the wicked Mrs Tweedy from the film 'Chicken Run'?*

*MARTIN FOOKES,*

*Via email.*

## Making mischief

*Sir,*

*Making Music – the commission from Sir Peter Maxwell Davies. Well I suppose there is nothing more important in the world than attacking a group of amateur musical societies commissioning a new piece of music from one of the UK's most important composers. However, in doing so, Lunchtime O'Boulez has unfortunately got his facts wrong. The implication that Sir Peter Maxwell Davies "invited" members of Making Music to commission him is quite inaccurate: in fact the invitation was issued by us, Making Music, to celebrate Max's 70th birthday in this unique way. What's more, there is regrettably no way that we will be rewarding Max to the tune (geddit?) of the figure mentioned; he is getting a fixed fee however many choirs participate, and we are taking the financial risk. It looks like, by the way, the final number of choirs in the project will be around 50.*

*It's a great scheme this: whilst our members between them commission more works than all the professional orchestras combined each year they can't all afford to work with a composer of Max's*

*standing. So spreading the cost across many of them in this way is as far as we know a unique and exciting venture. And it means there will be a large number of performances of the new piece in the first season – instead of the usual one or two.*

*Finally I should point out that in common with many of his predecessors, Max has done a great deal of work for the federation completely free of charge. The role of president is completely ex officio and it was my idea to do this project with the support of our board of management. Max is a great supporter of amateur music-making; can the same be said of your correspondent?*

*Yours faithfully,*
*ROBIN OSTERLEY,*

*Chief Executive, Making Music.*

## Even, Steven

*Sir,*

*Re: your item on the cellist Steven Isserlis (Eye 1098): Dvorak wrote only one cello concerto. So it's referred to as the Dvorak cello concerto, not "a Dvorak cello concerto".*

*I doubt that Isserlis is now any less "annoyed by the inaccuracy of its [Eye's] reporting." His name isn't Simon, it's Steven.*

*Cheers,*
*RODNEY GREENBERG,*

*Via email.*

## Book worms

*Sir,*

*Re Staffordshire libraries (Books & Bookmen, 1098).*

*As an enthusiastic visitor, I would like to defend Stafford library. It most definitely welcomes those in search of a quiet read. It's well laid out on three floors with as good a collection of materials as the (paltry) budget allows. My sons would never normally read from choice but have recently discovered the books in the Teenage reading room and are now hooked. I can't thank the library enough.*

*Yours sincerely,*
*LOUISE WARBURTON,*

*Via email.*

## Just Williams

*Sir,*

*Regarding your story in edition 1097, I would like to make it clear that whilst my name is Williams and I run a television and media company called Avanti, I/we are in no way connected with any kind of Welsh education/language/funding shenanigans, the names are co-incidental. I would be interested to know, however, how on earth one gets one's hands on such large pots of cash for so little effort.*

*Sincerely,*
*DAVID WILLIAMS,*

*Chief Executive, Avanti Communications Limited, London N1.*

## Sign of the times

*Sir,*

*The things you get at Christmas with many addressees are not Round Robins, they are circular letters, sometimes called Newsletters. A Round Robin is a letter with many signatories, too frightened to sign normally so they sign all round the edge of the sheet. Originally used by mutineers in the Navy.*

*The best known one is that sent in 1776 to Samuel Johnson asking him to alter his epitaph for Oliver Goldsmith, signed by Burke, Gibbons, Reynolds and many other famous people.*

*Yours truly,*
*RICHARD STEEL,*

*France.*

## Colemanballs

£10 paid for contributions

*"We owe it to ourselves first and foremost, and, more importantly, to our fans."*
**KEVIN KEEGAN, Sky Sports**
(Nick Dowling)

*"We want to go upwards, not stand still and go backwards..."*
**CHRIS ROBINSON, Radio 5 Live**
(A.D. Cameron)

*"The gap between the two men appears to be insurmountable."*
**TIM EWART, ITN**
(Alex Scoppie)

*"I have sown a few seeds and thrown a few hand grenades and I am now waiting for the dust to settle so that I can see how all the jigsaw bits come together."*
**GARY JOHNSON (Yeovil Town FC manager), Western Gazette**
(John Westcott)

*"The players' breath is condensating as they come out of the tunnel."*
**DAVID CHILCOTT**
(Lauren Cornish)

## The Borrowers

*Sir,*

*Woody Guthrie wrote "Union Maid" in 1940 though Seeger (and others) often laid claims to be the author of the last verse.*

*Guthrie took the tune from a traditional air (Red Wing), as was his wont. He often borrowed and reshaped lyrics, too.*

*The American "Stewball" is, of course, the Irish Skewball from "The Plains of Kildare".*

*Everybody borrows from everybody.*

*Where the Strawbs exceeded custom and practice was in getting a copyright on something they contributed little to. And now you can buy it as a ring-tone.*

*JOHN DEAN,*

*Headington, Oxford.*

*Sir,*

*...Admittedly, Pete Seeger was present at the incident in Oklahoma in 1940 in which company thugs tried to break up a Union meeting, and which prompted the song.*

*And though he himself was the singer who popularised it, the credit for both words and music must go to Woody Guthrie.*

*Unfortunately, though his heart may have been in the right place, Guthrie's 1940s' thinking led him to penning an overtly sexist and patronising third verse, about "Gals taking a tip from him, getting a Union man, joining the Ladies Auxiliary, and making a Union man happy by being a Union Wife."*

*An attempt to correct this flaw in an otherwise exemplary song-writing career was made in 1974 by Nancy Katz whose alternative third verse went, as far as I recall, as follows:*

*"A woman's struggle is hard, even with a Union card; She's got to stand on her own two feet, and not be a servant of the male elite. It's time to take a stand, keep working hand in hand, There's a job that's got to be done, and a fight that's got to be won..."*

*BRYN GLOVER,*

*Cracoe, North Yorks.*

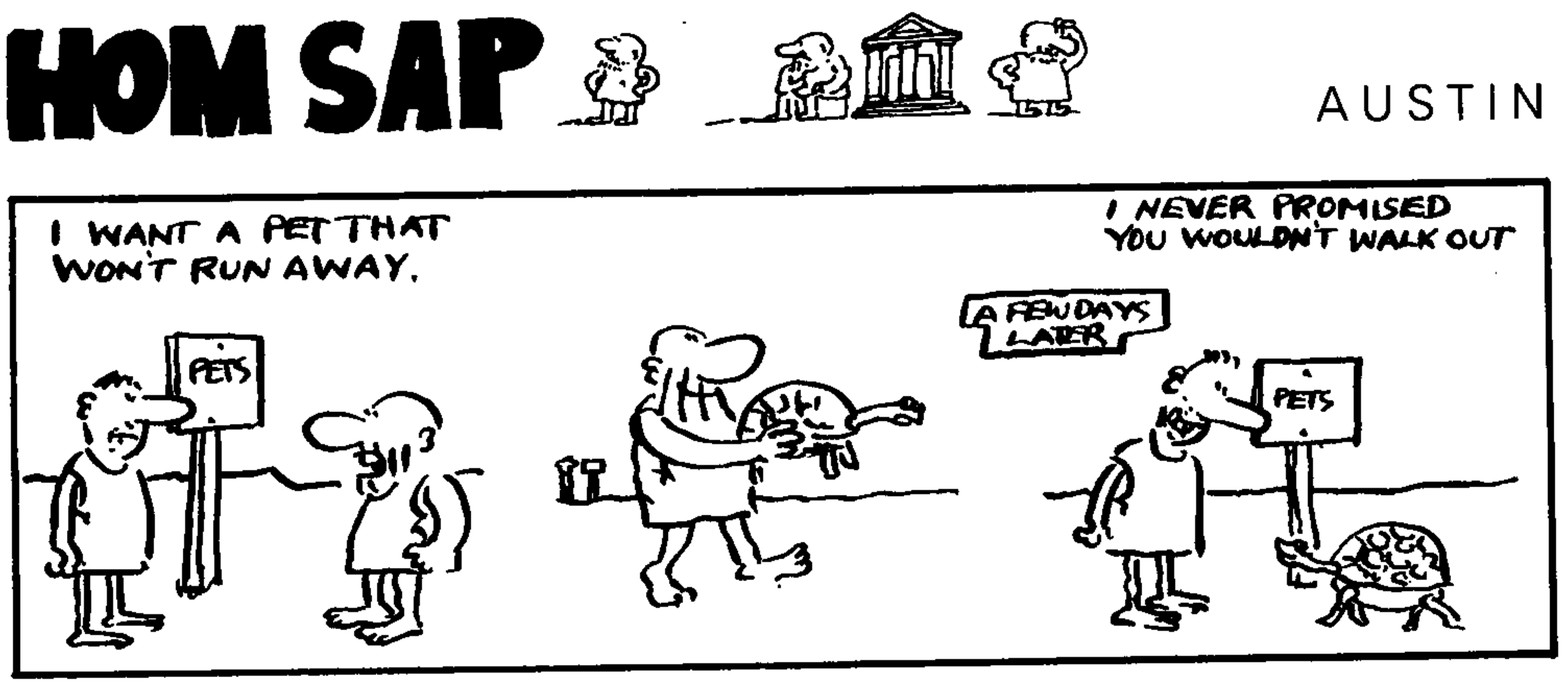
*Sir,*

*...It is very likely that Woody Guthrie knew the tune from one of the bawdiest ballads of the 19th century named Red Wing; an Indian maid who could never refuse a cowboy his dues but on one occasion shortened his love life with her Bowie knife. To quote from the book "Bawdy Ballads" (in my possession), "Woody Guthrie's song in praise of the distaff union member is doubly funny"!*

*Yours sincerely,*
*ROGER HUGHES,*

*London E5.*

***(That's enough of this. Ed.)***



# Letter from **Uganda**

## *from Our Own Correspondent*

*The Lord is my shepherd*
*I shall not want*
*He maketh me to lie down in Lira*
*And lose my lips, ears and nose*

**GOD, they say, moves in mysterious ways. Nowhere more mysteriously than here in the northern Ugandan town of Lira, where we are besieged by rebels calling themselves the Lord's Resistance Army.**

In the name of the Lord our ears, noses and lips are cut off, our villages burned down and our children abducted. Our daughters become sex slaves while our sons are forced to fight with the rebels. Every night thousands of frightened children seek safety from the rebels' nocturnal raids by trooping into Lira to sleep on hospital verandas and school floors. In the morning they trudge back to their villages to scratch a living as best they can.

Our charismatic president Yoweri Museveni drops by now and again in military fatigues to announce, with great fanfare, that the war is nearly over and he won't leave Lira until it is. Alas, the war has been running for 17 years and there is no sign the Ugandan army is about to win. Museveni shakes a few hands, sacks a few corrupt army commanders and then sneaks out of Lira with rather less noise than he arrived.

Museveni is well regarded by your government in Britain. You seem to think he's an African leader with a difference: a peace-loving democrat who's more interested in his people's welfare than lining his own pockets. They seem to have missed the news that he invades his neighbours (Congo and Sudan), has banned political parties and has a brother who's openly taken backhanders to secure military contracts.

Everyone makes money out of war these days: British arms dealers, relatives of African presidents – even ordinary Ugandan soldiers who come home from Congo with gold, diamonds and a couple of Congolese women.

Your two former overseas development ministers, Lynda Chalker and Clare Short – or Chalky and Shorty, as we call them – were extremely supportive of the Museveni government. As regular visitors to Uganda they were much impressed by Museveni's good manners, smooth tongue and large farm. Museveni keeps cattle on a ranch in Western Uganda where he likes to commune with nature, admire the cows and chat up donors. Chalky and Shorty were frequent guests.

Perhaps it was impolite to discuss the pillaging of our neighbours or the intolerance of opposition to his rule. In any case, Museveni has been in charge since he toppled the ghastly Milton Obote in 1986 and shows every sign of catching the "sit-tight African dictator" disease. His two terms of elected office are due to end in a couple of years' time, but he's already talking of not leaving until he's achieved his "vision". His "vision" is to turn Uganda into a prosperous, non-tribal, non-sectarian peaceful country. Nothing wrong with that, of course – but it's unlikely to be achieved in the next two years. So we may be seeing even more of the visionary Mr Museveni, and hearing further extravagant claims that the rebel war is just about over.

Meanwhile, following the appointment of your new minister, Hilary Benn (who we at first thought was a woman), our leader shouldn't worry too hard about whether or not he can work his magic on a man. For in Lira it seems that the foreign office file that describes Museveni as some kind of saint to be supported at all costs, is still being taken as gospel. Moreover, Museveni was one of the very few world leaders to back Blair over Iraq.

As we say in Africa: "People with no noses can still smell lies. And people without ears can still hear hypocrisy." But those of us in Lira without lips find it hard to speak out and denounce the hypocrites.

# FUNNY OLD WORLD

COMPILED BY **VICTOR LEWIS-SMITH**

● "There are a lot of vacant buildings in run-down parts of this city," Lieutenant Shaun Mathers of the Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department told reporters as they wandered around a derelict house on Long Beach Boulevard, "and they're a magnet for vagrants and drug addicts. These people use candles to light the interiors, and frequently cause fires, but no matter how many times we evict them, they always break back in again. We were at a loss about what to do until one of my colleagues saw this product advertised on the Internet, and we thought we'd give it a try. It's a pretty weird idea, but it works, and so far it's been 100% effective in keeping properties empty."

Lieutenant Mathers was talking about SkunkShot, an odorised petroleum gel developed by Andrew Rakich, an Australian inventor. "I don't actually milk skunks to get the musk," Rakich admitted during a telephone interview, "because that would be an unbearable task, but I've recreated the smell synthetically, using chemicals. At first I didn't know if there would be a market for a product that smelled so bad that nobody could bear to stay in a room where it had been sprayed, but now that the LA police are bulk-buying, I'm going into full production and hoping that SkunkShot will conquer the world."

After several trials, Lieutenant Mathers pronounced himself well satisfied. "It's horrible, just unbearable," he said, "and the effects last for weeks. In some properties, the vagrants try to come back for a while, with scented candles and cans of Glade, but SkunkShot wins out every time. So we'll start putting it into service across the city in 2004." *(Monterey Herald, 13/12/03. Spotter: Wallace Brown)*

– ● –

● *"Despite appearances, I was definitely not drunk," Judge Leena Pettinen told a court hearing in Helsinki, "and the breathalyser results were obviously wrong. What happened was that the test must have been affected by the alcohol that was left in my mouth from a single glass of vodka that I'd drunk the night before. You see, I woke up late and hadn't had time to brush my teeth before going to work the next morning, and that must be what gave the false reading."*

*Judge Pettinen was defending herself at a preliminary hearing against accusations that she had presided over four criminal cases while drunk. "The breathalyser test is infallible," Finland's prosecuting attorney general later told the court. "Besides, alcohol quickly evaporates in the mouth, and anyway, her blood alcohol content was also examined, and found to be three times over the legal limit. When she was first questioned, she did not deny being under the influence of alcohol while at work, and admitted having spent the previous night drinking vodka, rum punch, sherry, cognac, whisky, schnapps, wine, and beer. And as she always insists on the severest penalties for drunk drivers, the court should insist on the same for her."*

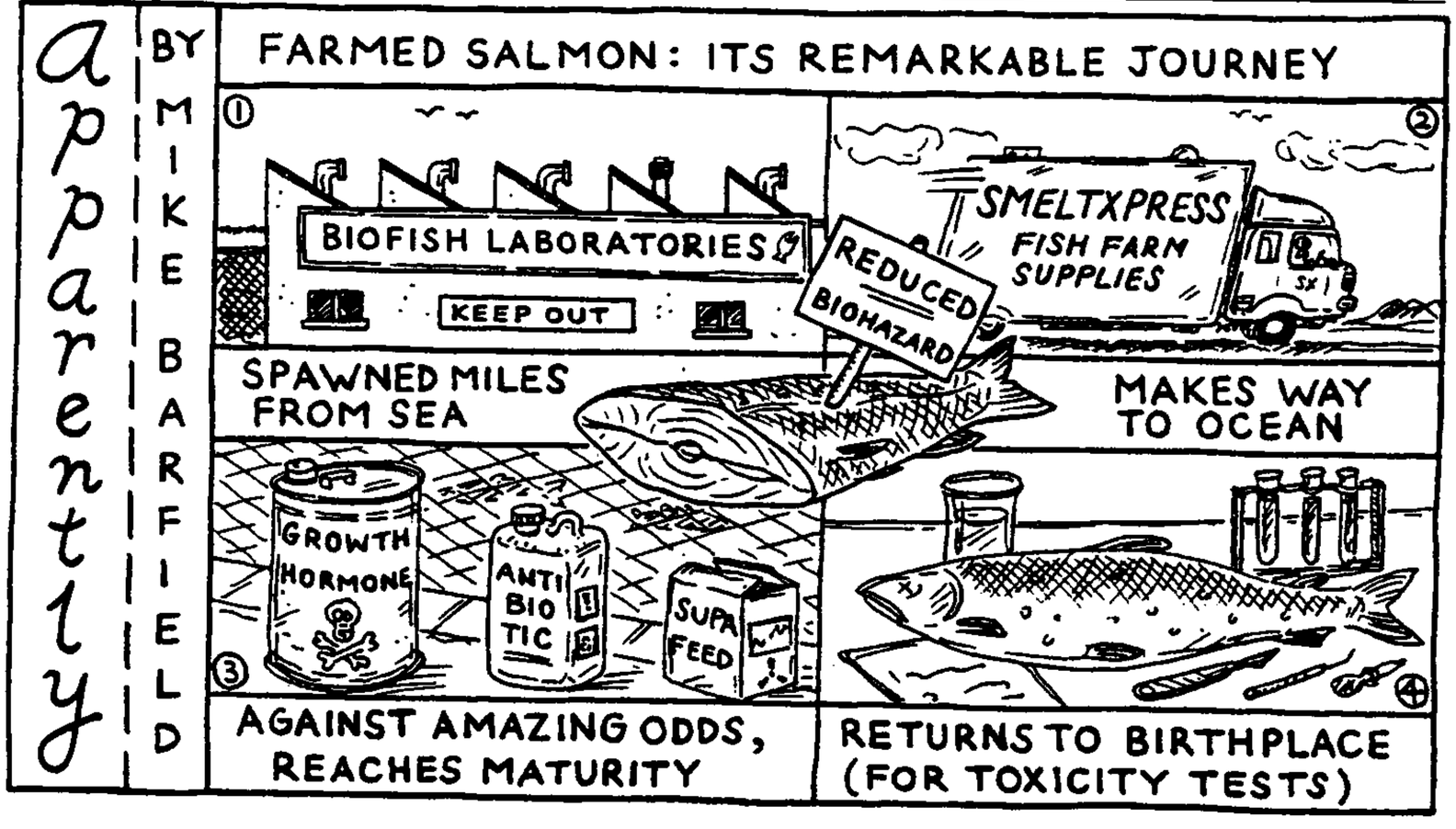
*If found guilty of professional misconduct, Judge Pettinen could face a fine or a one-year jail sentence.* (Taipei Times, 1/12/03. Spotter: "Mal Function")

– ● –

● "In total, we spend almost three years of our lives on the toilet," Environment Minister Lim Swee Say told a press conference at the Shangri-La hotel in Singapore, "and that's something we should all be proud of. It's natural and it's normal, so let's learn to enjoy our bathroom visits, and to say 'Wow! That's a great toilet'."

Lim was speaking at the launch of the "Happy Toilet" campaign, an event during which he awarded the country's first five-star rating to a public restroom. "I am very much

looking forward to experiencing this toilet for myself," he continued, "so that I can walk out afterwards feeling happy. We hope that other restrooms will soon follow the Shangri-La in meriting our five-star rating, which is based on a system similar to the one we use for hotels. Clean public lavatories are crucial for our country, to maintain its reputation as a magnet for human talent, and as a top location for investment. So let's all take pride in our toilet visits, and remember the motto of our campaign: 'Dirty toilets attract the wrong crowd'." *(Hong Kong Standard, 2/7/03. Spotter: Rohan Bray)*



Daily Telavivgraph

# WHY THE BBC STINKS

by **Barbara Amiel**

LORD HUTTON got it right. The BBC has been shown to be the most corrupt and incompetent organisation on earth. No wonder its Chairman and Director General have resigned and there is even talk of abolishing the whole thing.

Good idea. The state-sponsored BBC's crime is the equivalent in the private sector of a tycoon helping himself to millions of pounds of shareholders' money in order to buy shoes for his wife. How sickening! And yet they say they have nothing to apologise for.

Shame on you, Lord Black, for bringing disrepute onto one of Britain's most respected news organisation – the Daily Sellograph *(Surely some mistake? Ed.)*

## WHO ARE THEY? The Governors who will decide the fate of the BBC

*(Top row, right to left)*

**1.** Lord Unipart, Conservative Life Peer and President of the Single-gauge Model Railway Guild of Britain.

**2.** Dr Ranjit Hatterjee, Senior urologist, St Mary's Hospital, Shoreditch.

**3.** Baroness Blutack, former Head of Rymans Stationery (Policy Division).

**4.** Sir Trevor Trouserpress, Professor of Philosophy, the University of the South Circular (formerly "World of Leather").

**5.** Lord Onanugu, Head of Race Relations, ICI, Europe.

**6.** Another woman.

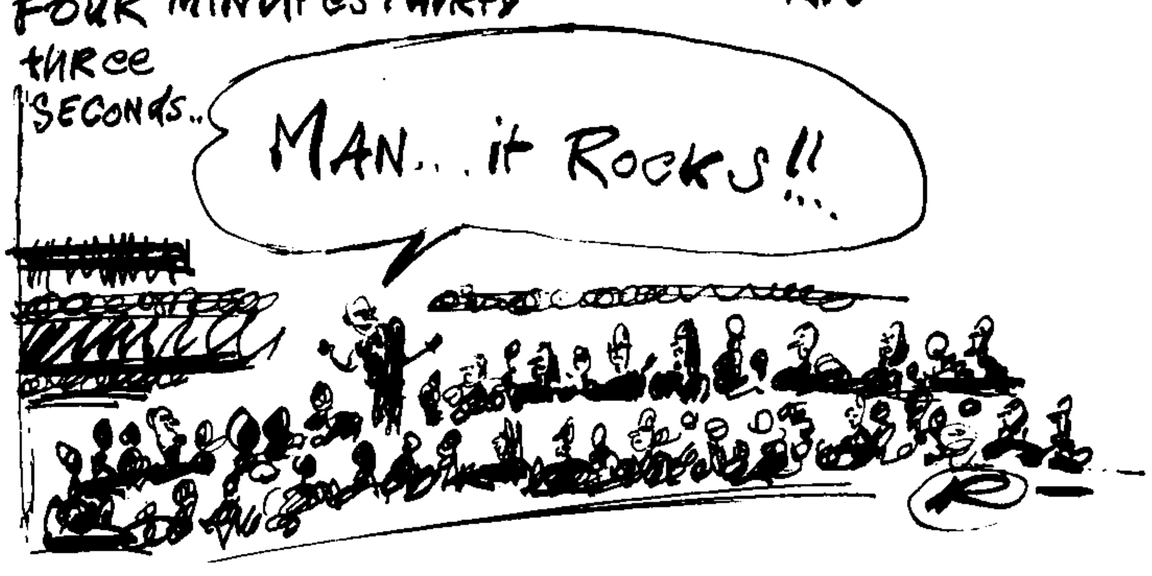
**7.** Man with glasses.

**8.** Man with beard.

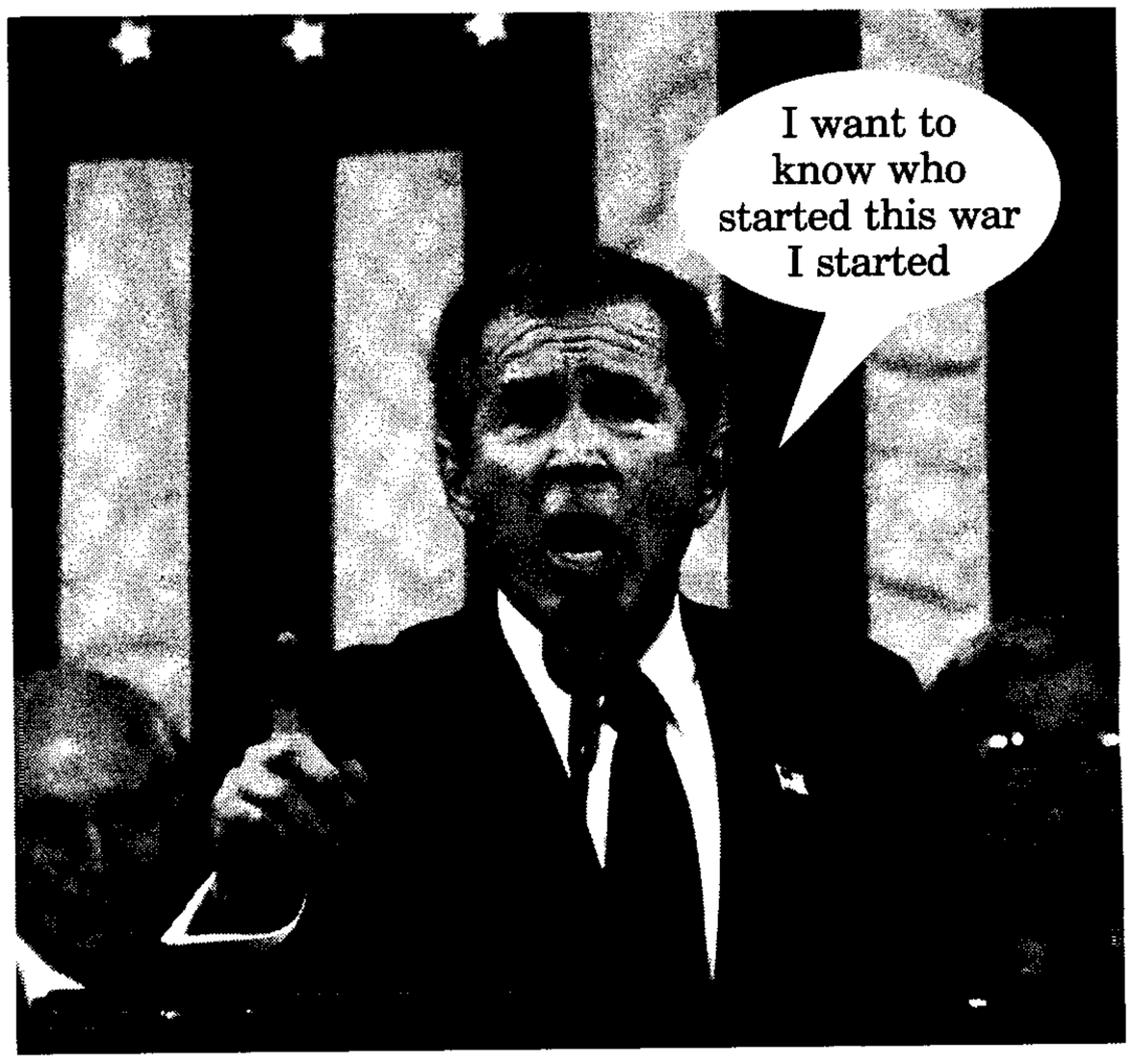
**9.** Er... sorry...

**10.** Er...

**11.** That's it.




# BUSH DEMANDS WMD INQUIRY




**Daily Mail**, Friday, February 6, 2004

# HUTTON REPORT BLOW TO HOUSE PRICES

by Mail Reporters **Christopher Houseprice** and **Charles Mooregage**

**HOME-OWNERS were reeling last night at the prospect of their houses becoming literally worthless last night as a result of Lord Hutton's findings.**

Said the owner of one five-bedroom house in Westcliffe-on-Sea, "Yesterday my house was £450,000. Now that Hutton has undermined the nation's confidence estate agents won't even come and look at it."

There was little sign that the market *(Cont. p. 94)*


## THE GNOME INTEGRITY TESTING KIT

HAVE you got integrity? More and more public figures seem to have this invaluable commodity – Sir Alex Ferguson, Geoff Hoon, Alastair Campbell, Gavin Davies, Lord Hutton, Johnny Rotten and glamour model Jordan. But how do you know if you have got it?

Now with this simple home-testing kit you can see at-a-glance whether you too are the proud possessor of integrity – just like all the people you read about in the newspapers!

Send **£173.95** to:
Gnome Integrity Offer, Unit 94,
The Lord Brocket Trading Estate, Lagos, Nigeria.

# ST ALBION PARISH NEWS

*Incumbent: Rev A.R.P. Blair MA (Oxon)*

## VICAR INNOCENT – IT'S OFFICIAL!!!

Yes, I know what some of you will be thinking! Your vicar doesn't usually start the newsletter with a great big headline, such as you might read in an ordinary newspaper!

But what else could I do? This has been the most momentous and joyous week for the parish since I first "came among you" in 1997!

For months and months, the parish has been awash with all sorts of wild rumours, malicious tittle-tattle and hurtful innuendos – not just aimed at me but at several other devoted members of the PCC and loyal servants of the parish, such as Mr Hoon and Mr Campbell.

I have been enormously proud of the courageous way in which they have stood up to this relentless and spiteful campaign without flinching, even if it unfortunately led Mr Campbell to have a nervous breakdown and to have to give up his job.

But here again there is some good news! The doctors are so pleased with his progress that he has once again been allowed out into the community, and has been popping into the vicarage to 'help out' on a part-time basis on Tuesday afternoons!

I think the first lesson that we can all take from the events of recent days is that some of us in this parish are now owed a MASSIVE APOLOGY from all those who have accused us of twisting the truth about the events which led last summer to the unfortunate death of our local GP Dr Mitty.

What has now been demonstrated for all the world to see is that the only real lie was that I and Mr Campbell had been telling lies!

So who are the people who should be first in the queue outside the vicarage to offer their apologies?

As you know, your vicar is not in the business of naming names, but at this historic moment, when the last thing I would wish to do is to crow over all those who have been proved so utterly and totally wrong, I think that if anyone put to me a number of questions about the identity of these people, I would be willing to confirm that the guilty parties who must apologise are as follows:

- Mrs Short
- Mr Cook
- Mr Marshall-Andrews
- the late Mr Dalyell
- the 108 members of the congregation who signed a petition suggesting that I should be defrocked as a war criminal
- Mr Brown
- the other Mr Brown
- all the millions of parishioners who blocked Tesco Road with banners carrying such childish and wounding slogans as 'Tony BLIAR'. I would remind them that they have been captured on CCTV and that Mr Campbell has already begun the task of matching "names to faces" as part of his therapy
- everybody who works for our local media, from the chairman of the BBC's Radio Albion to the man on the corner of the High Street who hands out copies of the St Albion's Metro free sheet.

But above all, I am owed an apology by Mr Howard, the lawyer who has recently moved into the parish from Romania and who for some reason seems determined to make trouble for me with his endless nitpicking complaints about the way the parish is being run.

All I can say to all these people is that I am still waiting for them to come up with the 'Big A'!

That's 'A' for 'Abject Apology', by the way! And what they should remember is that saying sorry might be hard, as we remember from the wise words of those holy men of yore, St Simon and St Garfunkel. But, you know something? We'll all feel much better when we get it off our chests (except me, obviously, because I'm the only one who's got nothing to apologise for!).

So, to help you, Mr Campbell has prepared an 'Apology Slip' for everyone in the parish to send in, to show how ashamed they are at having doubted the vicar's word!

I have also composed a compulsory chorus for use at next Sunday's 'Evensong of Celebration', as follows:

*We're so sorry, Tony,*
*We were in the wrong.*
*You were right as always,*
*As you have been all along!*

(To be sung three times before the General Confession)

Yours in glory! Tony

## THE ASSUMPTION OF INNOCENCE

**The vicar was very happy with the new altarpiece**

## FROM MR CAMPBELL BY EMAIL

**F****** GREAT! RESULT! WE F***** THE BEEB! WE F***** GILLIGAN! WE F***** KELLY! WE F***** EVERYONE! So listen in, you scumbags, my personal integrity, my truthfulness and my 100 percent reliability on all issues is totally vindi-f******-cated! Got that, you bastards?**

**And anyone who disagrees better watch themselves in the dark alley behind the chip shop! I want an apology from everyone in the parish, including the vicar who forced me to step down as editor of the newsletter when it looked like that geek Hutton was not going to play ball and do what he was told! On a happier note, there are plenty of tickets still available for my one-man show 'ALI CAMPBELL LIE ON STAGE' *(Surely 'Live'? T.B.)*. Then you can find out the real truth, when I prove for once and for all that I am not a f****** lunatic by reading every single f****** word of Mr Hutton's wonderful report, something that has never been done on stage ever before and which will last for approximately 72 hours, with one interval! Don't miss it, and if you do, remember that I know where you live! A.C.**

## *A THANKSGIVING PRAYER From the vicar's wife*

*Dear Lord (Hutton)*

*We give you thanks for our salvation and for our deliverance from sleepless nights of suffering and anxiety. Yes Lord (Hutton), you heard our cry for help and in our hour of need you took mercy on us and our little children. Thank you Lord (Hutton) that we can now slumber safely in our beds knowing that you have absorbed us of all our sins, not that we committed any.*

*Amen*

*© Cherie Blair. 2004*

## *Apology*

*When we said in a number of recent issues of this newsletter that Mr Hutton was a bumbling old fool who was wasting his time interviewing people in the church hall about the death of Dr Mitty, and that when his absurd report finally saw the light of day it would not be worth the paper it was written on, we now realise that Mr Hutton has performed an invaluable service to the parish by producing an extraordinarily fair, balanced and fearless report. We apologise for any confusion which may unwittingly have arisen over this matter.*

*Signed Dave Hill*

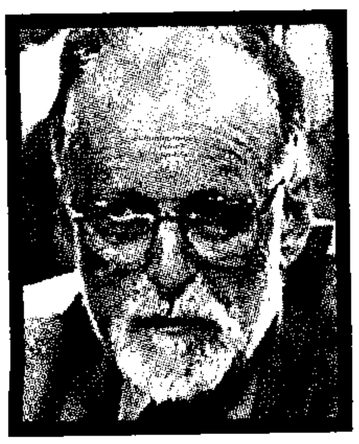
*(Acting Editor, until Mr Campbell returns after his nervous breakdown)*

# HUTTON – THE HISTORIC VERDICT

*Private Eye's 94-page Cut–Out–'n'–Keep Souvenir Supplement*

## KEY PLAYERS

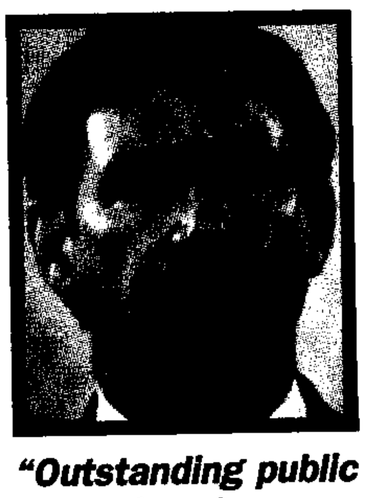
***"Good man, great war leader, totally innocent of any impropriety."***



***"Mentally unstable, knew he'd been caught out, understandably ended his own life."***

***"Man of unimpeachable integrity, complete devotion to truth."***

***"Loathsome reptile. If he had an ounce of integrity he would have followed Dr Kelly's example."***



***"Outstanding public servant, not responsible in any way for anything."***

***"Recklessly irresponsible, lowest form of gutter journalism, would do well to follow example shown by Dr Kelly."***

# NO WMD FOUND IN HUTTON REPORT

by Our Intelligence Staff **Conrad Blix**

AFTER an exhaustive search through the arid wastes of the Hutton report, inspectors hoping to find ammunition which would blow Tony Blair and his government away have been forced to abandon the search.

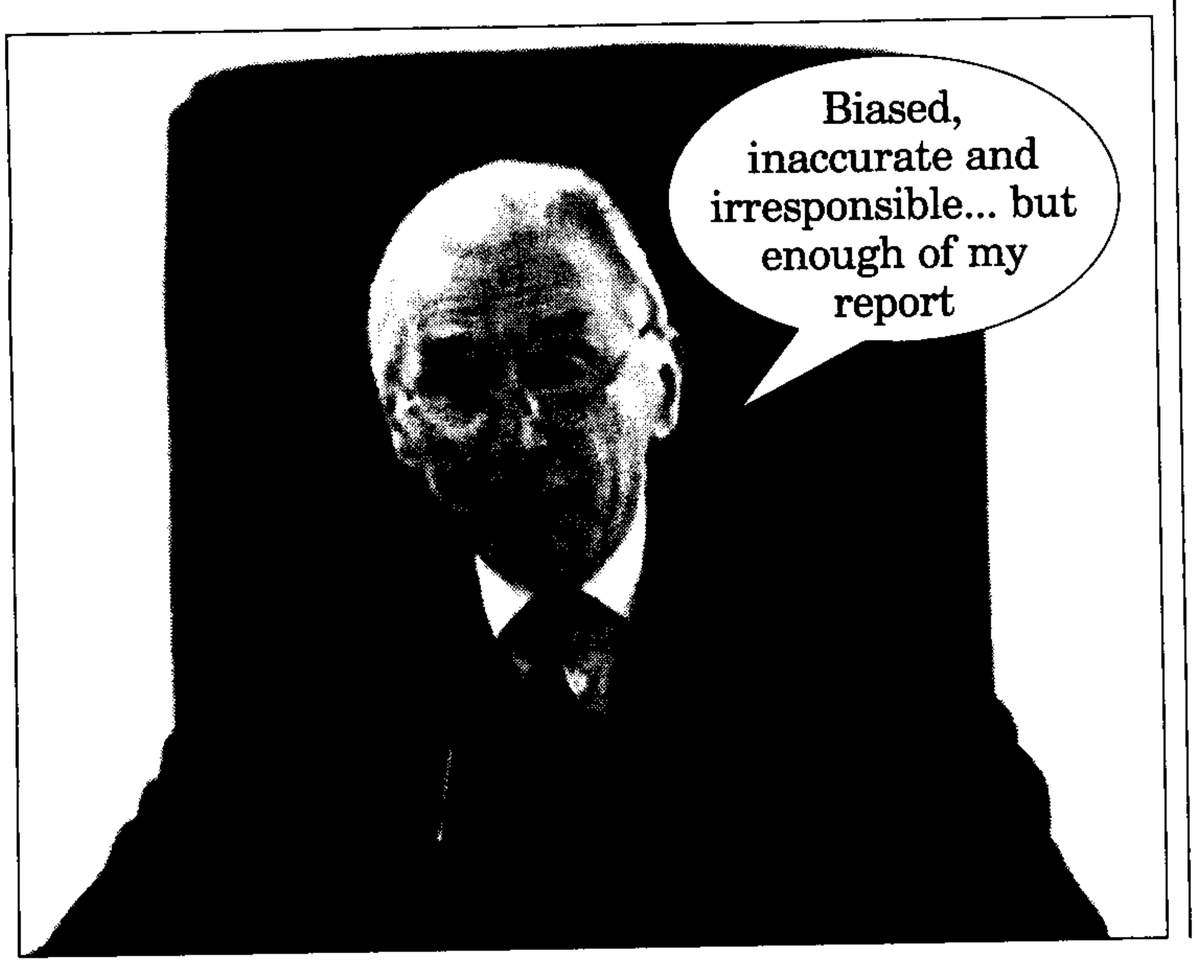
Thousands of hacks have combed through over 150,000 square miles of paper, only to conclude "There is not a single weapon of mass destruction to be found anywhere in the Hutton report. We have been badly let down by our intelligence – or rather Lord Hutton's lack of it.

"We were definitely led to believe that Hutton was a highly dangerous operator, who had the capacity to destroy Tony Blair within 45 minutes of his report being published.

"Yet, when we got in there and began our search, all we found was a huge pile of rusty old tins containing low-grade whitewash."

### Public School News

Shrewsbury School Shamed By Judge – "Hutton has disgraced our school" says Old Boy.




# MILLIONS TO BE CHARGED WITH CONTEMPT OF COURT

by Our Legal Staff **Joshua Rosenbeard**

LORD Hutton is reported to be 'furious' at the way in which his report has been treated by large numbers of the public. He is minded to make a court ruling that all those millions of people who have expressed their contempt for his report by claiming that it is a feeble whitewash and an insult to the intelligence of the public should be sentenced to a term of imprisonment in Guantanamo Bay.

*Reuters*

## THE BBC
# AN APOLOGY

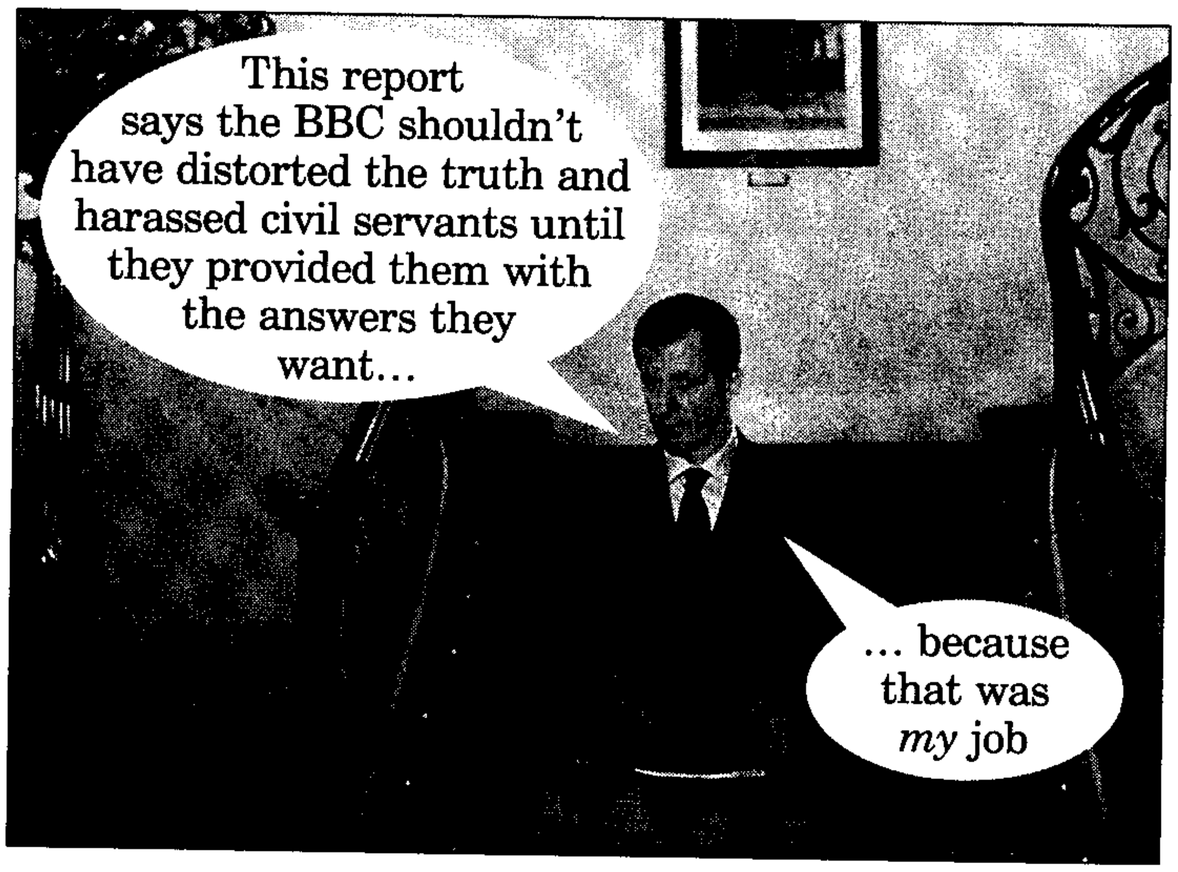
**IN RECENT years we may have given the impression that the British Broadcasting Corporation led by Greg Dyke was both hopelessly in decline and pathetically in thrall to the Labour Government.**

**Headlines such as 'Roland Rat Man Dumbs Down News', 'Tony's Croney Makes It "The Blair Broadcasting Corporation"' and 'Privatise The BBC Now' may have reinforced readers' perception that we believed the BBC to be failing the nation and that Mr Dyke was personally responsible for this failure.**

**We now realise that there is not a scintilla of truth in these allegations and that moreover the BBC is the jewel in the crown of British culture, particularly when led by such an inspiring figure of integrity as Sir Gregorian Dykeworth.**

**We apologise unreservedly to the Corporation and to Sir Gregorian for any confusion we may have caused by our coverage of the Corporation's affairs.**

**© Copyright all newspapers except the Times. See today's headline *'Why Rupert Murdoch should be the new Director General'*.**


This report says the BBC shouldn't have distorted the truth and harassed civil servants until they provided them with the answers they want...
... because that was *my* job

## Who Will Be The New Director-General Of The BBC?

# YOU DECIDE

- **Ricky Gervais**
- **Stephen Fry**
- **Lord Brocket**
- **Kirsty Wark**
- **Sir Simon Jenkins**
- **Chris Moyles**
- **David Dimbleby**
- **Johnny Vaughan**
- **Jonny Wilkinson**
- **Robert Kilroy-Silk**
- **Dame Helen Mirren**
- **Dame Harold Evans**

Phone now and add your voice to the government's decision to appoint Alastair Campbell to the BBC's top job!

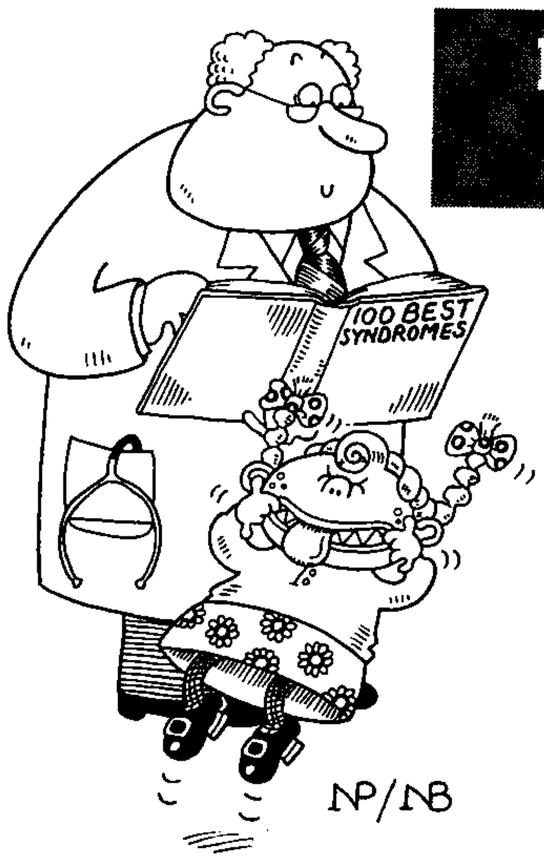
**01898 7428374**

*(calls not charged because we are not answering the phone)*

# ELVIS ALIVE AND WORKING IN SUPERMARKET

## Hutton Inquiry Latest

**Full story pages 18-36.**




## MODERN NURSERY RHYMES

There was a little girl,
Who had a little curl
Right in the middle of her forehead.
When she was good,
She was very, very good,
And when she was bad
She was diagnosed with
Attention Deficit
Hyperactivity
Disorder.

# GLENDA SLAGG

## *OUR BIRD IN THE BUSH!!! (GEDDIT?!)*

■ **HATS OFF to Jordan!?!? She's got huge assets – and I'm not talkin' about her boobs, stoopid!?! (You've got a dirty mind, mister!?!?) She's got brains and she's got balls – or she would have, if she was a fella!?!? Anyway, this gallant gal has proved that she's a lot more than a big-busted bimbo – in fact she's the Einstein of the Outback!?!? Watch out, Professor Stephen Hawking – Jordan's the new whizzkid on the Brainy Block?!?! Geddit??!?!**

■ JORDAN – aren'tchasickofher?!? This deformed dolly with the pneumatic knockers has been sendin' us all to sleep a-wigglin' and a-jigglin' in the jungle?!?! There's less to you than meets the eye, darlin'?!? Geddit?!? Put your ginormous jugs away and give us all a break, whydon'tcha?!?

■ *JORDAN?!?! Put a sock in it!?! Preferably one with a footballer inside it?!?! OK, so you've bedded Becks!?!? Who hasn't?! Well, you haven't for a start!?!? And nor has anyone else except his lovely wife!?!? Put up or shut up, you Brainless Barbie with the Ballistic Bazookas!?!?*

■ **JORDAN!?!? The gals of Britain salute you!?!? Feisty feminist icon and raunchy role model who** *(That's enough of this rubbish. Ed.)*

■ TED AND SYLVIA?!? Who cares?!? Why isn't it Ted and Jordan!?!?! That's the film we want to see!?!? *(You're fired. Ed.)*

■ HERE THEY ARE – Glenda's Valentine Valentinos:

● **Rock of Gibraltar** – OK, so he's a horse. But he's hung like a horse!?!? (Geddit?!?)

● **Jordan** – OK, she's a woman, but then women are the new men?!?!?

● **Sir Kevin Tebbit** – My kind of Mandarin!?!? Geddit?!?!

*Byeeee!!!*

# TV Highlights

**Timewatch** (BBC2), 9.00pm

**'Charles Was Not Mad,' Says George III**

Despite the evidence that Prince Charles spoke to flowers, threw furniture at his wife and told his mistress that he wanted to be a tampon, King George III claims that his distant relative was as sane as he was. Speaking from the grave, the late King George III told an oak tree in Windsor Great Park, "Charles suffers from the delusion that he is going to be King, but apart from that he *(Cont. p. 94)*

*"I think I'd rather look for another cashpoint"*

THE Sun
Friday, February 6, 2004

# 'BBC GUILTY – WATCH SKY INSTEAD' says Hutton

By Our Entire Staff
REBEKAH DISH

Sexed-up Suzy: What proper news journalism looks like!

**THE distinguished judge, Lord Hutton, has concluded that the BBC should be closed down and all of its broadcasting responsibilities reassigned to Sky TV, according to a leaked copy of his report obtained exclusively by the Sun's political editor Rupert Murdoch.**

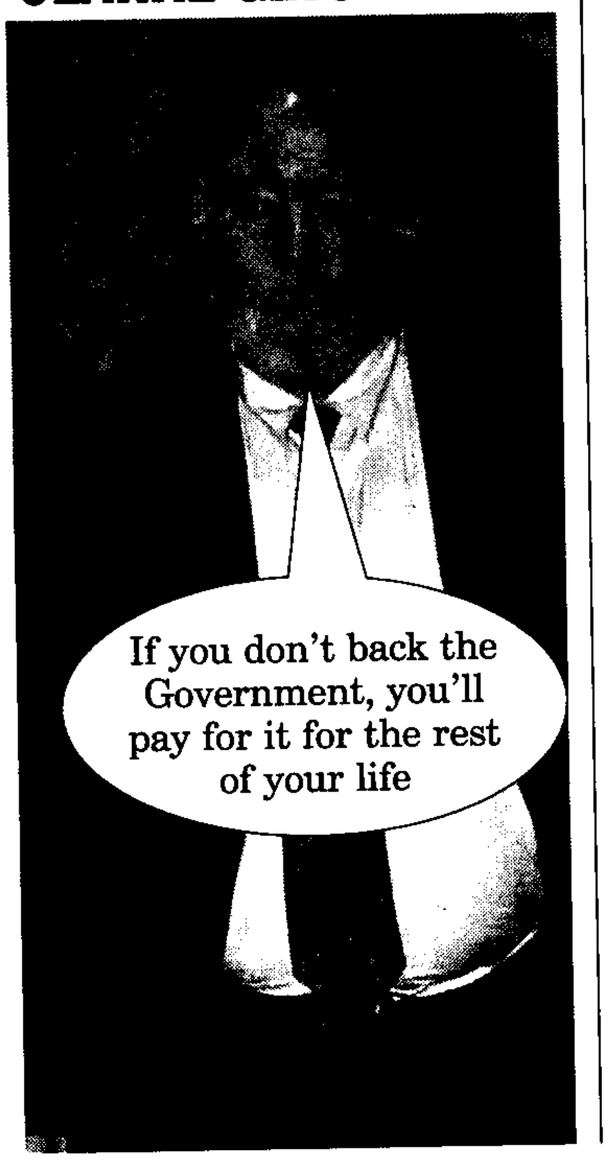
The judge blamed the BBC for irresponsible journalism, distortion of the facts and illegally diverting potential profits from share-holders of reputable satellite television companies into public service broadcasting which *(cont. p. 94)*

## THE NEW POST-HUTTON BBC HOW IT WILL LOOK

| OUT GOES | IN COMES |
|---|---|
| The Today Programme | The Toady Programme |
| Ten O'Clock News | No. 10 News |
| Question Time | No Question Time |
| Panorama | Spinorama |
| Top Of The Pops | Top Of The Ups |
| University Challenge | University Fees |
| Newsnight With Jeremy Paxman | Newsnice With Jeremy Yesman |
| Just A Minute | Just 45 Minutes |
| PM | PM |
| 24-Hour Rolling News | 24-Hour Rolling Heads |

*(That's enough. Ed.)*

## TOP-UP FEES: CLARKE GETS TOUGH




# BBC News

(on all channels)

## Day 1

**Newsreader**: Tonight the BBC is in the worst crisis it has ever faced in its 80-year-old history. 'Meltdown' is not too strong a word for what is happening here at the BBC. Thousands of hacks are engulfed in the collapse of the entire broadcasting system which has followed Lord Hutton's finding that the BBC was guilty of the murder of Dr Kelly.

Tonight I ask myself, how did it happen? Are we all guilty? And, even if the answer is 'yes', why should anyone accept that I am telling the truth?

Later on I will be talking to a lot of people who hate the BBC, and I won't interrupt them at all.

But first – bird 'flu. Is the BBC to blame for the deaths of millions of birds?

## Day 2

**Newsreader:** The Hutton Report has condemned the BBC for allowing Andrew Gilligan's unscripted 'two-way' report on the Today programe to be broadcast. I'm joined now by another BBC journalist who happened to be walking past the studio.

*(Bemused-looking journalist is thrust into the seat opposite her)*

**Newsreader**: So what's your reaction to the criticisms of the Corporation in the Hutton Report?

**BBC Journalist**: Well, I'd prefer to read the full report before making any snap...

**Newsreader**: Yes, but has the BBC learnt the lesson that you can't just let journalists on the air without tightly scripting what they're saying?

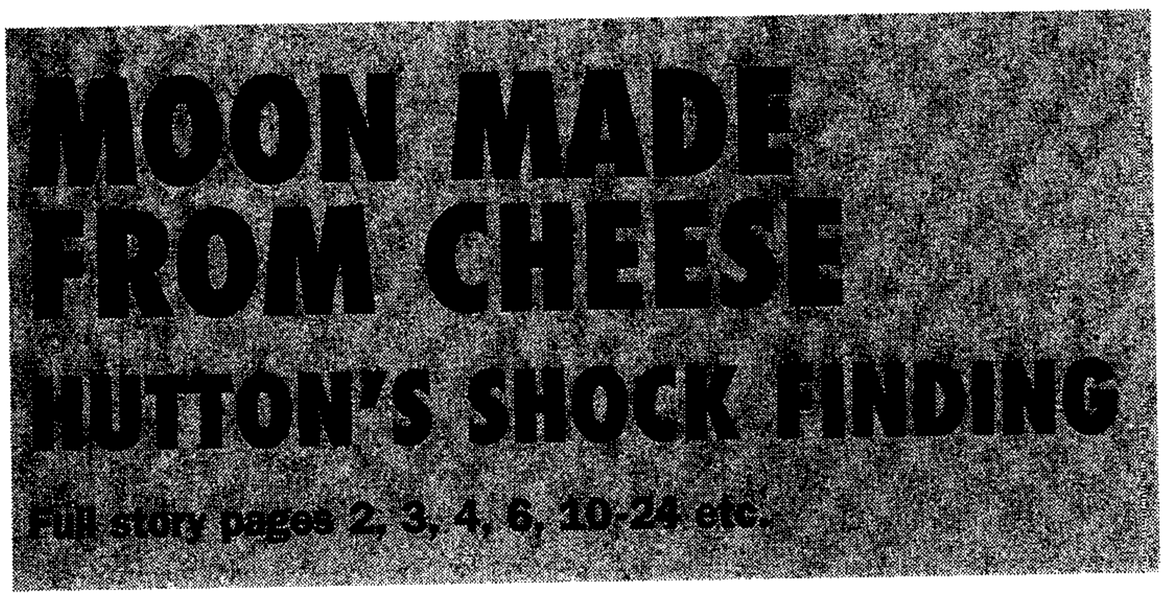
**BBC Journalist**: Probably. I mean, it's just my opinion, but I'm not sure...

**Newsreader**: So you don't think this sort of thing could happen again?

**BBC Journalist**: Look, I don't know, I was just on my way to make a cup of tea...

**Newsreader**: So, sum up the entire 328-page report in one sentence.

**BBC Journalist**: 'Rubbish from start to finish... BBC innocent of all charges...' oh, no, I bet I regret saying that... *(continued for 94 days)*



# HOLLYWOOD 'HONOURED BY GERVAIS'

by Our Showbiz Correspondent

**HOLLYWOOD was today honoured by being allowed to present an award to Ricky Gervais.**

"I can't believe it, I'm just a fat man from Hollywood but I'm sharing the room with Ricky Gervais," said an astonished Jack Nicholson.

"We're just a small suburb in Los Angeles," said a spokesman for Hollywood. "We'd never have dreamt in our wildest dreams that one day we'd be allowed to present an award to Gervais."

## THOSE FLU DIFFERENCES IN FULL

**Traditional Flu**

Go to bed, wrap up warm and have a delicious bowl of chicken soup.

**Asian Bird Flu**

Have a delicious bowl of chicken soup, go to bed, die.

The Sunday Telegraph

# Why Conrad Black Is Very Nice

by **Dominic Lawson** aged 12¾

Conrad Black is my best friend. He's really nice and invites me to lots of parties where he gives me fizzy drinks and as much tuck as I can eat! He is also very generous with pocket money and doesn't boss me around. I can write whatever I like, including pieces about what a nice chap he is! And he's got a really nice wife too called Barbara who is jolly pretty! Cor! So, as I said at the beginning of my essay, my friend Conrad is very nice.

**On Other Pages**

Why This Isn't True – City staff reveal all about Black scandal **94**

# WHITE HELL SWEEPS BRITAIN

by Our Metereological Staff
**Jon Snow**

THERE was widespread misery across the nation's newspapers last night as acres of white space opened up as the story about the Big Freeze melted away in the winter sunshine.

"We were warned about the snow and we thought we were prepared," said Martin Newboy, editor of the Daily Whitehellograph.

"We had hundreds of pieces ready about gritting machines, marooned motorists and stranded commuters.

"Imagine our horror," he continued, "when the sun came out, temperatures rose and we were trapped with up to 12 inches of every page left to fill with nothing happening except 'I'm a Celebrity Get Me *(cont. p. 94)*

Daily Mail

# Am I Alone In Liking Snow?

**by Sir Max Hastings** The World's Worst Columnist

WHEN I woke up this morning, a deep layer of white stuff carpeted my garden. At once I felt a thrill of excitement at one of nature's miracles!

Yet I appear to be wholly alone in enjoying the joys of a British winter.

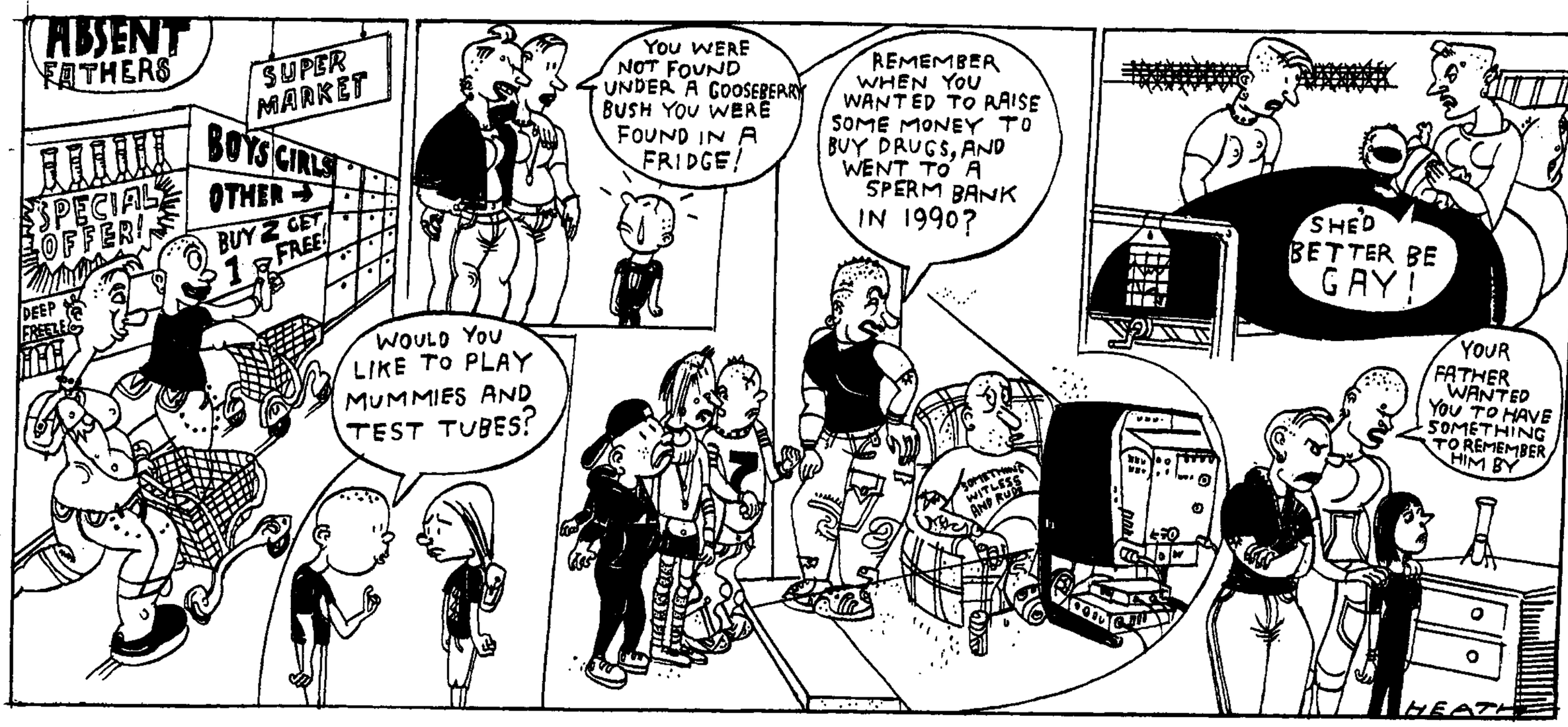
No sooner has the first flake fallen, than a mighty army of whingers rises up on all sides to complain about icy roads, late trains and all the rest of it.

What nonsense! I can think of nothing better than to stride across the English countryside in a stout pair of boots, feeling the satisfying crunch of the powdered snow beneath my feet and sniffing the frosty air!

For goodness sake, surely we should be proud of our British snow, instead of rushing about, trying to clear it away with shovels from our drives, or sending out fleets of those ludicrous gritting machines to cover the roads with horrible dirty-brown slush.

Call me old-fashioned, if you like, but I say this. When it comes to snow *(cont. p. 94)*

*What's Your View Of Snow? Email Max Hastings and join the Great Snow Debate now on snowmax@dacretrash.co.uk*


ABSENT FATHERS
SUPER MARKET
BOYS GIRLS
OTHER →
SPECIAL OFFER!
BUY 2 GET 1 FREE!
DEEP FREEZE
WOULD YOU LIKE TO PLAY MUMMIES AND TEST TUBES?
YOU WERE NOT FOUND UNDER A GOOSEBERRY BUSH YOU WERE FOUND IN A FRIDGE!
REMEMBER WHEN YOU WANTED TO RAISE SOME MONEY TO BUY DRUGS, AND WENT TO A SPERM BANK IN 1990?
SOMETHING WITLESS AND RUDE
SHE'D BETTER BE GAY!
YOUR FATHER WANTED YOU TO HAVE SOMETHING TO REMEMBER HIM BY
HEATH

# HUTTON CLEARS HITLER — 'Churchill And BBC To Blame'

by Our Inquiry Staff **Michael Whitewash**

**IN A 2-million page report published today, the eminent High Court judge Lord Hutton absolved the late Adolf Hitler of "any blame whatever" for his part in the Second World War.**

In his concluding remarks, Lord Hutton firmly pinned the blame on the former journalist Winston Churchill, whom he described as "a reckless, impulsive and irresponsible sensation-monger, who exaggerated the truth in order to further his own ambitions."

Lord Hutton reserved special blame for the British Broadcasting Corporation, which had given "an inordinate amount of air-time to broadcast his one-sided and ill-founded attacks on Herr Hitler, a man of unimpeachable integrity".

'Evil man' – Hutton

### Hutton Dressed As Lies

It was in 1946 that Lord Hutton was asked by the government to carry out a thorough investigation into the circumstances surrounding the death of 60 million people during World War Two.

Lord Hutton heard evidence from several million witnesses, who told the judge that Hitler had taken over the Sudetenland and had then invaded Denmark, Norway, Belgium, France, Holland and a number of other countries.

Lord Hutton concluded that this could be interpreted as "a perfectly natural defensive reaction by the leader of the Third Reich in response to the threatening behaviour of Mr Churchill, whose one aim, it seemed, was to bring down the lawfully elected government of Herr Hitler and his colleagues".

Lord Hutton is 94 not out.

# POETRY CORNER

**In memoriam Fanny Blankers-Koen, Dutch Olympic Athlete**

So. Farewell
Fanny Blankers-
Koen.

You won four gold
Medals in 1948.

"The Flying
Housewife." Yes,
That was your
Nickname.

You were best
Known for your
Modesty.

Which is why I
Have never
Heard of you.

Until today.

E.J. Thribb (runner-up 2004 Whitbread Poetry Award for his collection *A Barrowful of Dead Leaves*, The Horovitz Press, £69.99)

# Late News

## 'KELLY DID NOT COMMIT SUICIDE'

AN AMAZING new claim by an expert witness last night cast doubts on the 'death by suicide' verdict on Dr David Kelly.

"It's quite obvious," said Mohamed Fayed, "that Dr Kelly was murdered by the Duke of Edinburgh assisted by MI6."

# An Aldeburgh Taxi Driver Writes

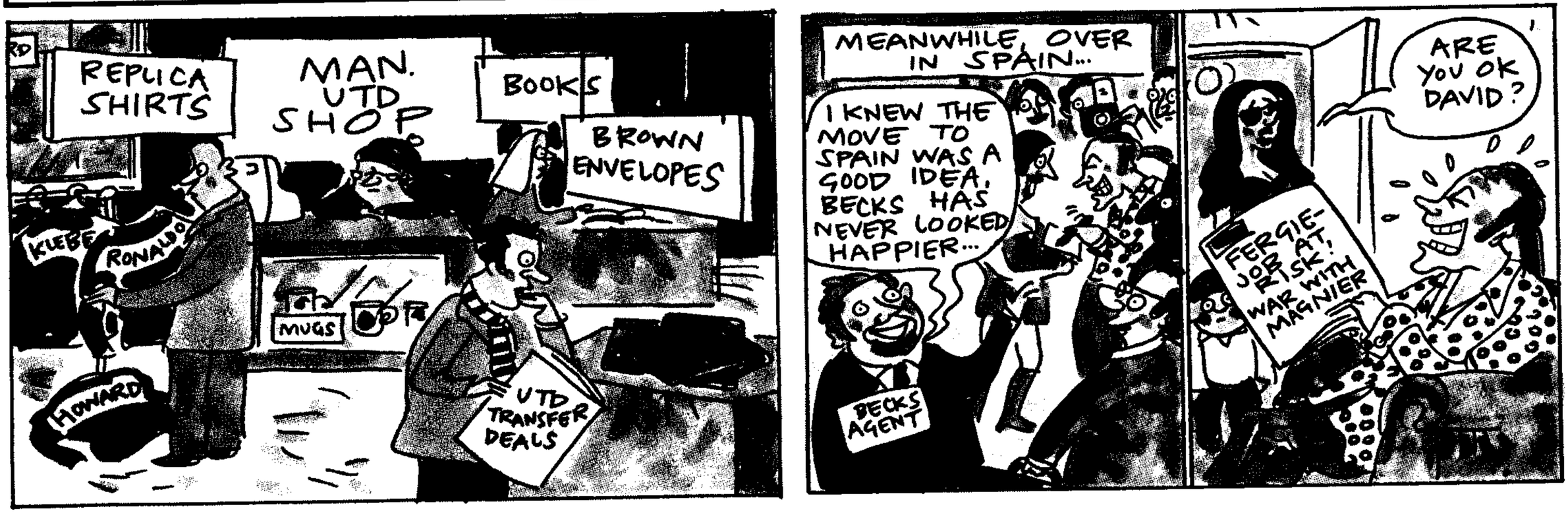
Every week a well-known taxi driver discusses an issue of topical importance.

THIS WEEK: **Simon Bentley-Marchant,** proprietor of the Peter Pears Limousine Hire Co, Aldeburgh, Suffolk (Cab No. 1), gives his views on the new memorial sculpture to the late Benjamin Britten by Maggie Hambling, recently unveiled on Aldeburgh beach.

"I say, guvnor, that sculpture really is a bit of a shocker. Completely ruins the shoreline. I've got nothing against Ben Britten personally, but what's this shell got to do with anything? Don't get me wrong, it's not because, you know, he played for the other side, if you get my drift, and had a rather poor war, running off to America like that as soon as the first shot was fired, not to mention the fact that his music was, let's face it, unlistenable to, dreary operas about paedophiles and so on, no, it's the council I blame for allowing them to put up a thing like that in the first place. If you ask me, they should all be strung up, it's the only language they understand. I had that Maggie Hambling in the back of the limo once and I asked her not to smoke, 'f*** off' she said, that's the sort of people we get in Aldeburgh nowadays."

# the PREMIERSH*TS

PAUL WOOD



# DIARY

## JOANNA TROLLOPE'S SNOW WHITE AND THE SEVEN DWARFS

The mirror – that gold-framed, reflective-style looking-glass she had managed to pick up for a bargain £37.00 at the Liberty sale in London's Regent Street the year before last, along with a delicious deep red throw from Malaya and a sexy little black dress by Gucci which she only ever wore on occasions when she was feeling a bit low and wanted a bit of picking up, as anyone does, these days – was on the wall, in its usual place.

The Queen looked into it, peeringly. It was going to be one of those days, she thought, with a sigh.

"Mirror, mirror on the wall," she began.

"Mm?" intoned the mirror, still on the wall, which it always was. The mirror madly questioned everything. Some considered it cracked.

"Mirror, mirror on the wall," said the Queen, repetitively. She had that looking-in-the-mirror look on her face – a look she invariably put on for looking in the mirror.

The mirror knew, perceived and guessed that the Queen was on edge. Some called her wicked, but she was basically just insecure, experiencing nagging feelings of there's-something-missing, almost as though – in a vague, unspecific, intangible sort of way – there was something missing. She was a victim of the must-do culture of success-at-any-price. If only she'd discuss it!

The mirror desperately wanted to help, desperately wanted to be a shoulder to cry on. But the mirror had problems of her own, goodness she did, problems she wanted to share.

"Mirror, mirror – "

"Putting you through. Bear with me."

"Mirror, mirror on the wall. Who's the fairest of the characters within the remit of those about who I am talking about?"

"Come again?"

The Queen had wanted to ask a simple question. But if life had taught her anything it was that nothing is ever that simple, not when there are so many pages to be got through.

"Well" said the mirror, "It depends what you mean by fairest."

Yes, thought the Queen with a sigh, it was going to be at least three pages before she got anything approaching an answer. She sighed again, and then again. Then once more.

"Men!" thought Snow White, sitting in a highly desirable modern detached house that offered spacious accommodation to up to seven modestly proportioned individuals. "They never discuss their feelings. Instead, they bottle them up, and then things come to the surface and then – well – one thing leads to another".

Too true. These past few weeks, one thing had certainly led to another.

"One thing," she had observed to her best friend, only the other day, before pausing, as though looking for the right combination of words or phrase. But before she had managed to endeavour to try to formulate a suitable ending to the phrase she was about to coin, her best friend Jill – the wife of Bill, who'd tragically fallen out with Phil after he'd left Cill for Will's wife Hil – had finished the sentence for her.

"Leads to another," said her best friend.

"Hm?"

"It... leads to another. One... thing, I mean."

"Yes, I see what you mean, Jill," Snow White had replied in response, adding, additionally, "One thing leads to..."

"Another."

"Tell me, Bashful," said Doc, "Why do you whistle while you work?"

"I don't," replied Bashful.

"Denial," retorted Doc, retortingly, "is only ever a coping mechanism."

The two men – neither tall – were having a heart-to-heart. They were each sitting on painted wooden kitchen chairs with four legs, bought in a job-lot just over six years before from an out-of-town antique warehouse that had since gone bust owing to its owner's unfortunate addiction to gambling – an addiction that had cost him his partner, Drusilla, who finally couldn't take it any more and now lived in Guernsey with a retired GP sadly widowed at the end of the 1980s after his second wife Amelia, a former ballet dancer, developed something terminal, with complications.

"Hi ho!" exclaimed Grumpy, entering with a cheery, jolly, merry sort of wave. He'd been so much better since he went on the Prozac.

Doc looked at Grumpy quizzically. "Any news of Dopey?" he asked.

In recent years, Dopey had overcome his earlier learning difficulties by facing up to blockages – emotional and psychological – that were holding him back. As a man, Dopey had failed to keep in touch with his emotions, and for a while they had stopped speaking to him, just to teach him a lesson. But last year he managed to get back in touch with them – it turned out they were living just round the corner in a three-bedroomed house with double garage that must be worth, oooh, roughly half a million pounds, just so long as the council didn't go ahead with the by-pass – and as a result he had achieved a double first in Classics from prestigious, ancient and educational Oxford University, first mentioned as Oxnaforda in the Anglo-Saxon Chronicle as early as 911.

"Hi-ho, guys!" It was Snow White, much happier now that she had come to terms with her childhood trauma, given up smoking and invested in the Estee Lauder range.

Back at the Palace, the Queen tensed herself for an answer. The mirror took a deep breath.

"Snow... White."

"Whatever," sighed the Queen, up-to-dately. She tried to put on a brave face. Now was not the time for recriminations, she thought, thoughtfully. Far better to hook up with Snow White at their local bistro, the picturesque Bella Roma, on the junction of the High Street and Victoria Place, where they did a delicious Chicken Kiev for under ten pounds, wine included, and discuss with her in a thoroughly open and civilised way any deep-seated feelings of low self-esteem either of them may or may not be feeling at the present time. After all, theirs was a contemporary dilemma, and the old-fashioned days of confrontation were over, finished, ended.

*As told to*

CRAIG BROWN

BLOODY JOURNALISTS! YOU READ THIS INTERVIEW WITH ME IN THE OBSERVER MAGAZINE? IT'S DISGRACEFUL.
I THOUGHT IT WAS VERY FLATTERING MYSELF...
A NICE PROFILE OF YOU AS A MAN.
YEAH? WHAT ABOUT THE LAST SENTENCE? TALK ABOUT SPITEFUL!
IT SAYS "ABOVE ALL, GARY SEEMS A WONDERFUL, WARM WITTY HUMAN BEING"
EXACTLY!
IT'S MEANT TO SAY "GARY BLOKE'S NEW ALBUM IS OUT ON MONDAY..."
OH YEAH.
A PLUG AT THE END IS WHY I DO THIS SH*T...!

# Literary Review

## The gee whizz spot

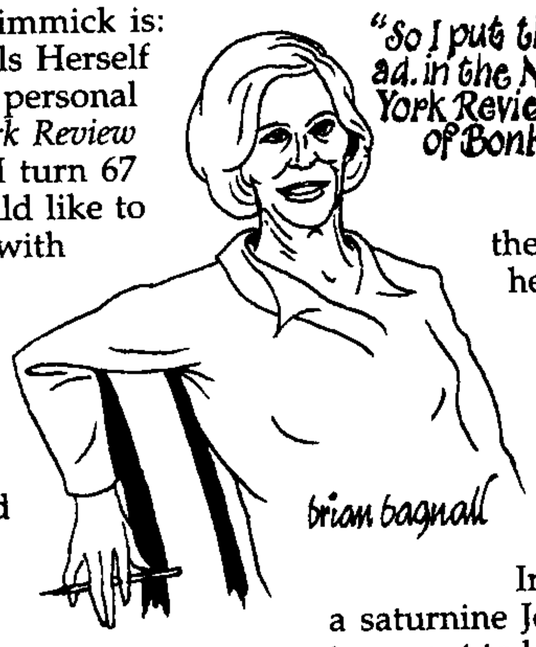
### A Round-Heeled Woman

Jane Juska

*(Chatto & Windus, £10.99)*

THE slush piles of vanity presses are full of memoirs which might be titled "My Mid-Western Childhood", "Thirty Years a High School Teacher" or "On The Couch and Off The Scales: How Analysis Helped Me Lose Weight and Gain Confidence". Such slices of life are two a penny and, like those travel books which are just a glorified What I Did On My Holidays, they need a special gimmick to make them sell.

Jane Juska's gimmick is: Senior Citizen Sells Herself On Sex. She put a personal ad in the *New York Review of Books*: "Before I turn 67 next March I would like to have a lot of sex with a man I like. If you want to talk first, Trollope works for me."




The response was not disappointing and makes a goodish story. Juska might not be the woman of easy virtue implied by the title (presumably someone who easily falls over backwards), or as someone says "a whore without the money", but she goes a good way towards ridding herself of her image as a "respectable English teacher with a passion for the novels of Anthony Trollope", as the flyleaf puts it. She loved Trollope so much she decided to become one, as the expected pun goes. But to subtitle her book "My Late-Life Adventures in Sex and Romance" is a bit of a misrepresentation.

Readers expecting a blow-by-blowjob account, the ups and downs and ins and outs of the ensuing flings and not-quite-flings with a handful of randy old (and in one case rather young) goats, will be disappointed. Though a bit more raunchy than a calendar of nude jam-makers, it is hardly on a par with Catherine Millet's *The Sexual Life of Catherine M*, though parts of it are every bit as tedious.

But the real problem is not the stuff about her ad and its various respondents, which occupies only about a fifth of the book. The problem is with the rest of it.

You see, Jane Juska had that mid-western childhood, with a domineering mother and distant father, she found sexual relationships difficult and unrewarding, got married, had a son, got divorced and only really enjoyed herself when reading or teaching literature. Then she had analysis, which revealed a hidden traumatic memory of being forced as a child to fellate the family's mentally defective gardener. She overcame her fear of sex, lost weight, fell in love with her analyst, and so forth.

Having learned, through analysis, "to read the sober and complex book that was me", she decided to go one better and write it. Or perhaps, as a literary type, she always planned to write her memoirs. At any rate, she acknowledges her debt in the front of the book to the Bay Area Writing Project, and to others who encouraged her to tell her story.

But it's one thing to write and another to sell. So it was a stroke of luck, really, that she should have been inspired, as she says she was, by watching the French film *Autumn Tale*, to put that ad in the paper. Now at last she had a gimmick, on the back of which to sell her memoirs.

She eventually gets 63 replies, which she divides into Yes, No and Maybe. Among those in the Yes pile we get to meet a crazy Irishman called Danny, a saturnine Jew called Jonah, who turns out to be 82 (and a kleptomaniac), a writer called Robert, who resents the distraction from his work, and a one-legged voyeur called Walter. Then there's Sidney, who likes to grope Jane's ample breasts in public; Matt, a fellow Trollope fan; and John, who sucks sweets while on the job. Finally, success at last, there's Graham, a man in his early 30s (almost the age of Juska's own son), who loves making love to a woman twice his age.

These encounters make for the juicier bits of Juska's book. And so she doles them out sparingly, in between all the rather routine stuff about growing up in Ohio in the 40s and 50s, her awkward relationship with her parents, her difficulties with dating, her college days at Ann Arbour, her miserable marriage, her attempts to be a good mother to her drop-out son, the joys of teaching, her love of libraries and so forth. The truth is, we don't really care about this stuff, or not much, and if we turn the pages at all it's to scan the text for the next appearance of an F-word or a C-word or the two conjoined letters KY. ("Fuck, fuck, against the dying of the light," she waxes poetically at one point.)

There's one exception. At the Berg Collection in the New York Public Library, after going through a Kafkaesque bureaucratic ordeal, she is finally permitted to view an original Trollope manuscript. She reads a scene from the novel *Miss MacKenzie* in which the heroine, sighing into the mirror over her advancing age, eventually moves forward and kisses her own reflection. A moment of self-acceptance achieved, one might observe, without the help of an analyst.

Jane Juska is not complaining. "Analysis saved my life and made me rich," she writes. That may be so; but "Kissing the Mirror" would have made a more accurate title.

## Books & Bookmen

■ WHEN Bristol Central Library reopened after refurbishment 40-odd years ago, it advertised proudly that it had twice the number of books than it had before. No such claims will be made after the current "coffee, computers 'n' disabled access" refurb, however.

Of the main lending collection, 15 percent has gone. Far more worrying is that, in order to find temporary space for the lending books displaced from the ground floor, an astonishing 25,000 of the 50,000 books in the stack (as the reserve store in the basement is known) have been culled. Anything old, shabby or which hadn't been borrowed in the previous few months was earmarked for the chop, regardless of its rarity or whether it was still in print.

When the work was done, chief librarian Janet Bremner emailed her staff, congratulating them on getting rid of half of the stock. But many had been so horrified they had used guerrilla tactics to keep as many of the books they could. Those chosen by Bremner for disposal were turned down on the shelves (ie placed spine upwards), the signal for the clear-out contractors. But a few librarians took to sneaking down and turning as many as possible the right way up again.

The official line is that this is merely "good stock management" and that "anything worthwhile" has been retained and that "like book shops, lending libraries constantly update their stock". Library users and many staff are less sure, though. Libraries *aren't* bookshops but repositories of knowledge, especially when they're the main library in a large university town. A book may become shabby if it is well-used, and even it doesn't bear the date stamp of a recent loan, it might well have been thumbed onsite by students, academics or other researchers. Those whose chosen titles have gone should perhaps visit the Book Barn in Glastonbury which bought most of the discarded items.

*'Bookworm'*

## Warballs

"After September 11 I stopped masturbating." — MIKE STERRY, Student (University of Edinburgh).

**"In *The Wisdom of Harry Potter: What Our Favourite Hero Teaches Us About Moral Choices*, Professsor Kern writes: 'The terrorist assaults of 11 September 2001 on the twin towers of the World Trade Center and on the Pentagon, subsequent attacks with anthrax spores, frequent warnings from governmental officials, additional attacks overseas and war in Iraq have all replaced vague feelings of insecurity with the promise of future threats. Harry Potter comes to face similarly intensified threats. His world becomes increasingly uncertain.' Professor Kern argues that Harry Potter has an 'updated Stoic' attitude to adversity which is ideal for coping with modern challenges. But he admits that his stoicism theory is better supported by the first four books than the most recent, *Order of the Phoenix*, in which Harry behaves like a petulant teenager."** — *Times Education Supplement*.

"But why bring them [Levi 501s] back at all?... 'We did some work with the Henley Centre last year,' says Kenny Wilson, European marketing director for Levi's, 'that showed the prevailing zeitgeist is for consumers to feel more uncertainty than ever before: about the economy, war. Even young kids were experiencing more anxiety. In that world of uncertainty, people are looking for things that feel real and authentic. So our starting point was: 'Which jeans articulate that?' And 501s were the obvious answer." — *Grauniad*.

# IN THE BACK

ACCOUNTANCY

## PARMALAT PANIC

**HIGH PANIC has engulfed top executives at Grant Thornton following the Parmalat scandal in which some £10bn has somehow been "mislaid".**

In a nervous email to assorted senior staff and PR consultants, Aisling Armitage, Grant Thornton's senior PR executive, has issued stern instructions on how to deal with the media on the subject.

For instance: "The National Communications team is clearly heavily involved in managing the media in the UK. As a result, a number of proactive PR projects have had to be put on hold. In particular, we have postponed all PR/marketing which could possibly be linked to Parmalat as this could potentially cast us in a negative light."

Absolutely no one outside National Communications is "authorised to speak to the media on Parmalat". Instead, all inquiries have to be sent through to Sharon Murphy on 0870 991 2785. The management warns decent Grant Thornton people to beware because "journalists are clever and experienced in catching people off guard". So the best thing is "to be especially cautious when agreeing to live TV or radio appearances as journalists may seize the opportunity to ask you about Parmalat".

On the other hand, staff shouldn't lose their journalist contacts. The best way to keep them (and keep mum about Parmalat) is to lie. "In turning down interviews because you are unsure how the quotes will be used, you should preserve your relationship with the journalist by indicating that there is no spokesperson available to meet the deadline."

Finally the email proposes the greatest sacrifice of all – cancel those expense-account lunches: "Beware of business/city journalists… If you have lunches or face to face meetings fixed with such journalists over the next few weeks, you may want to consider postponing them."

KPMG 1

## Miller's tale

**IN THE dark days before "new" Labour, surplus NHS land and property were sold by an efficient and profitable public agency called NHS Estates.**

So "reform" was obviously needed: the introduction of some nice big companies that could, in exchange for a few hundred million, help the state flog off its property. It was time, in other words, for a PPP (public private partnership).

The review that started the process was brought into being by Labour's public services productivity panel and was led by Dame Sheila Masters, a partner in the accountancy combine KPMG.

Two consortia bid for the right to share in the new bonanza in NHS land and property. The winning consortium was the big Scottish builder, Millers, and the Bank of Scotland (HBOS). Both firms were advised or audited by KPMG. The loser, another builder called Pears, complained of a conflict of interest and the NHS referred the complaint to the national audit office (NAO).

The NAO report has just been published and conflict of interest looms large. For instance:

- KPMG advised the NHS and at the same time audited the accounts of both the companies in the winning consortium. At first it failed to disclose this fact.
- Andrew Huntley, former chairman of the NHS's property adviser IRE (who is not named in the report), joined the board of Miller as soon as the company's consortium was named as preferred bidder.
- The managers of the NHS property company, Inventures, had unrecorded conversations with Miller before the successful bidder was named.
- Inventures chair Kate Priestley and chief operating officer David Lawrence attended the steering group meeting where the winner was decided, and confirmed that they would rather work with Miller.

The NHS shared details of the rival bid with Miller without asking the rival bidder.

Some of this, according to the NAO, was "not good practice" and some of it was OK. The full NAO audit of the deal may not be so generous.

KPMG 2

## Rake's progress

**"CORPORATE social responsibility" (CSR) is the new craze for big companies, including the giant accountancy combine KPMG, whose just-published 2003 report is a model of self-congratulation.**

Chairman Mike Rake announces: "We're pleased with our organisation's overall performance during a period of global economic difficulty, and another challenging year for the profession." Rake modestly failed to mention, as an example, his own remuneration, which rose 44.5 percent. Nor was there any detailed account of the mauling KPMG executives are getting in the US senate hearings for the firm's "abusive" tax avoidance schemes, nor the forthcoming investigation by the accountants' investigation and discipline board into KPMG's audit of Independent Insurance.

All this (and Hollinger as well) has persuaded KPMG moguls that the time has come for a serious bout of CSR. So they have announced a "Global Initiative on Leadership and Business Ethics", not to mention "the Laureate Award and Medal Series" and establishment of the Nobel Peace Center. Introducing all three, Chairman Rake explained: "The global initiative is founded on the conviction that leaders are defined by their actions, and that those individuals who exhibit exemplary business ethics should be recognised and honoured. The Nobel Peace Center symbolises the quest for solutions that advance harmony and well being among all cultures and nations. KPMG's participation as the Nobel Center's global founding partner underscored our belief that all individuals and businesses must strive to contribute to the well-being of their communities." Sick bag, nurse, and quickly.

PS: Tony Blair's economic adviser, former SDP candidate Derek Scott, hopped it from Downing Street just before Christmas. He'd got a new job – at KPMG.

HEPATITIS C

## Blood Money

**THE government cannot have been surprised by the anger that greeted last week's announcement that haemophiliacs and others infected with the deadly liver virus hepatitis C from contaminated blood products will receive paltry "compassion" payments of between £20,000 and £45,000.**

That is a fraction of the six-figure sums paid to victims in Ireland and Canada; and an insult to people who have lost their health, livelihood and families because of a debilitating disease that can lead to cirrhosis and liver cancer. The families of those who died will receive nothing, even though many of them gave up their own careers to become full-time carers.

Many people are expected to refuse the "insulting" payments in protest. They are particularly aggrieved as they now know that some of them were secretly tested for the disease and not told. As long ago as the 1970s health officials were alerted to what was then only recognised as non-a, non-b hepatitis. Sufferers believe successive governments have covered up a massive poisoning scandal.

Many haemophiliacs were also infected with HIV, as well as hepatitis A and B. Most of the 1,200 infected with HIV have since died. About 5,000 haemophiliacs and many more patients given blood transfusions following accidents or during surgery were infected with hep C, which acts much more slowly but is equally infectious and can be equally devastating.

In addition, many of these people are now living with the news that they have more recently been given products from donors infected with variant CJD. Last month an alarming editorial in the *British Medical Journal* said such people are highly at risk from vCJD and need to be managed as if the disease had been diagnosed and "may have to accept restrictions on what they can do".

This is devastating for people already living under a death sentence fearing that they might infect their partners and children. The *Eye* has already written about how some have been refused routine medical treatment because of the threat of passing on infection to others.

What has befallen the haemophiliac community (and recipients of blood transfusions) is surely one of the worst medical disasters ever. One in four haemophiliacs has been condemned to death from contaminated blood products – many of them infected *after* the dangers of bad blood were known and documented.

The government was prepared to order a public inquiry into the death of one man, David Kelly. Yet when thousands have died, it hopes to escape with a meagre buy-out. Legal action brought by 200 sufferers in this country against the blood companies in the US may yet bring the full scandal out into he open.

## Morgan Grinder

**AS HE settles in to his new top job at American investment bank Morgan Stanley, Sir Howard Davies, former top British financial regulator, might like to read the recent judgment of a Paris libel tribunal.**

The tribunal found that Morgan Stanley had seriously libelled the French luxury goods group, LVMH, and the bank was ordered to pay the company thirty million euros.

The libel arose from a series of evaluations published in Morgan Stanley's *Luxury Goods Monthly*. The evaluations were made by the bank's star analyst, an English woman called Claire Kent; but LVMH claimed they were biased against it and in favour of its rival, Gucci – which just happens to be a client of Morgan Stanley.

Sir Howard may be especially interested in the tribunal's criticisms of the bank's management structure. There was, the tribunal found, no proper distinction between financial analysts and investment advisers – just the sort of distressing problem that led last April to Morgan Stanley being fined $125m by the US securities and exchange commission (SEC).

Perhaps Sir Howard was brought in to Morgan Stanley to make sure this sort of thing doesn't happen again. But perhaps not. After all, Stephen Newhouse, Morgan Stanley's international president, greeted the Paris judgment with sublime indifference. The bank, he insisted, would make no changes to its management or its practices. And Claire Kent would continue to enjoy the bank's fullest support.

MISCARRIAGES OF JUSTICE

# PROF POSITIVE

**LAWYERS acting for Nicholas Tucker, serving life for the 1997 murder of his wife, are hoping that a report last month from the head of forensic medicine at Dundee University will finally help the former RAF squadron leader clear his name.**

The criminal cases review commission is currently studying new evidence from Professor Derrick Pounder, which states that Tucker's case is quite extraordinary because "there is essentially an absence of pathological evidence to support the allegation of homicide".

On the way back from a restaurant in Icklingham, Norfolk, Tucker crashed the couple's Ford Fiesta into a river. He was pulled from the river, apparently semi-conscious and with a gash on his head. His wife Carol, 52, was found drowned under the nearby bridge.

For some days the police treated the crash as an accident. Tucker, now 53, maintained that he had swerved to avoid a deer, careered down a steep bank and into the relatively shallow water, where he was knocked out. Police only became suspicious that he had committed murder and staged an elaborate cover-up when officers discovered that while Mr Tucker was serving as a UN observer in Zagreb in 1995 he had had an affair with a young Serbian interpreter and had stayed with her in London only a month before the crash.

Their case was that he had left the restaurant, stopped the car somewhere and strangled his wife to the point of unconsciousness, before driving them both into the river, where he held her under the water to drown. Lack of skid marks, indicating a slow descent into the water that experts suggested would not render him unconscious, his blood found on his wife's side of the car, and an unaccounted-for delay between the time of the dining bill and the crash all fuelled their suspicion.

The only problem was that there was really no pathological evidence to support any claim that she had been asphyxiated. There was no injury to her neck or even the skin on her neck. There was no sign of any struggle and Mrs Tucker was still wearing her necklace, earring and glasses.

Before the trial four pathologists agreed that strangulation should be excluded. Prof Bernard Knight, a leading forensic pathologist hired by the prosecution, concluded that "there were insufficient evidence on medical grounds for any successful hypothesis to be maintained that Carol Tucker's death was due to the actions of another".

But Prof Knight was not called to give evidence – a point that Prof Pounder, in his report to the CCRC last month, found highly disconcerting. He said: "There was no basis whatsoever for the prosecution to suggest strangulation had taken place to the point of unconsciousness or death… or that it had preceded homicide by drowning was equally unsupportable on the pathological evidence. It is difficult to understand how such a prejudicial and unsupportable allegation came to be presented to the jury."

Prof Pounder concluded that it was not possible to rule out homicide entirely from his findings, but "proof of homicidal drowning would necessarily have to rest entirely upon compelling circumstantial evidence". In 2000, the Channel 4, *Trial and Error* documentary team knocked big holes in the prosecution's circumstantial case. Most importantly, it staged a scientific re-enactment of the crash using dummies and monitors. It showed that the damage to the car indicated it must have been travelling at a speed faster than that alleged by the prosecution and one that could indeed have rendered Tucker unconscious on impact.

Tucker's solicitor Campbell Malone is gathering further expert opinion in the light of Prof Pounder's report – particularly looking at how Tucker's blood came to be found on the passenger side of the car – in the hope that the CCRC will shortly send the troubling case back to the court of appeal.

POLICE 5

# The Bill (Morris)

**AT THE press conference to launch the Metropolitan police authority (MPA) inquiry into professional standards in the Metropolitan police, it was emphasised more than once that the inquiry would not be concentrating on specific cases.**

Maybe so: but the reason the inquiry was cobbled together with such speed was the call by the Black Police Association for black people not to apply for recruitment to the Met. The BPA boycott followed the dropping of the Met's pathetic but expensive case into the BPA's former chairman, Supt Ali Dizaei.

As long as the BPA boycott stood, the future of the Met as an impartial law-enforcer was in jeopardy. Drastic measures were called for, and so the MPA, which supervises the Met, hastily brought together a committee of three to hold a public inquiry.

Two of the committee's members are black – former Transport & General Workers' Union general secretary Bill Morris (right) and Anesta Weekes QC, who distinguished herself as junior counsel to the Stephen Lawrence inquiry. The third member is the former chief constable of the South Wales police, Sir Anthony Burden. The South Wales police, under Sir Anthony, carried out the inquiry into the shocking case of Sergeant Gurpal Virdi (*Eyes passim*), who won enormous damages from the Met and still works for them. That report is not published.

The appointment of the inquiry did the trick – for the moment at least. The Black Police Association lifted its boycott.

# GLO in the dark

**SUSTAINED and organised tax dodging doesn't really interest the media, least of all the business media. So no paper apart from the *Eye* seems remotely interested in the huge amount of money being lost to the government through GLOs ("group litigation order") cases mounting up in the courts.**

The GLOs each have several "classes", all carefully devised by Dorsey and Whitney, the specialist tax-dodging lawyers brought over especially from the US to create a spider's web of tax dodging (using laywers from the former PriceWaterhouseCoopers legal arm, Landwell, that they bought from the accountants last year). There are at present five GLOs, all brought by companies seeking to avoid tax they have previously paid.

The first case was heard in the European courts in 2001, and involved the collection of advance corporation tax (ACP). The companies argued that the collection of such tax was illegal where the companies had paid dividends to subsidiaries in Europe. The European judges agreed and the British government lost a huge slice of revenue as a result.

Despite this defeat in Class 1 of the "ACT GLO", the Revenue hoped they would win the Class 2 cases as they had collected less tax from companies in this class in the first place. But no such luck. The court of appeal has just ruled that the Class 2 companies should be treated every bit as favourably as Class 1 companies, even though they have paid less corporation tax on their dividends than the Class 1 companies did. This decision has cost the exchequer hundreds of millions of pounds.

Delighted at their progress, Dorsey and Whitney are advising companies in Class 3, which are based outside the EU, to go to court to claim similar tax relief.

Mr Justice Park has ruled in the high court that these companies are not entitled to the same sort of compensation as the companies in classes 1 and 2. But that is by no means the end of the matter. The case goes up to the court of appeal, traditionally much more friendly to some honest tax dodging than ordinary judges in the lower courts. Hundreds of millions more of pubic money are at stake.

WATERWORLD

# Leak stew

**EVERY day, pipes belonging to Thames Water leak 925 megalitres of water (enough to fill 300 Olympic-sized swimming pools).**

Figures from Ofwat reveal that while most other water companies, including the once notorious Yorkshire Water, have cleaned up their act on leaks, Thames has actually got worse since 2000, when it was losing "only" 662 megalitres a day.

Of late, much of that water has been ending up on the streets of Islington, where soggy residents have been the victims of several burst mains as well as numerous more minor leaks bubbling through the road surface.

The most recent burst main was just before Christmas. More than 50 homes had to be abandoned, especially basement flats which filled to their ceilings within just three minutes. Local campaigners point out that in such circumstances, lives as well as property are being put at risk. The floods also cause traffic chaos and expensive damage to road surfaces.

As well as the damage to homes and roads, though, it's an awesome waste of water in a year when environment secretary Margaret Beckett had to make a drought warning announcement in December. "We don't have a lot of green spaces in Islington," said Islington councillor Laura Willoughby, "but we'd like to have enough water left to water them in summer."

# Coughing up for lawyers

**POCKETING more than £300m for making compensation claims on behalf of miners isn't enough for the legal profession, it seems. The Law Society has had to issue a sharp reprimand to law firms that have demanded a cut of the compensation on top of their fees.**

Around £2bn has already been paid out to miners under the scheme since 1999, after British Coal was found to have been negligent in relation to lung disease and vibration white finger. Another £311m has been paid to solicitors for their work on the cases based on a standard fee of £2,100 per case – a deal agreed with the department for trade and industry.

The Law Society has discovered at least three firms which were taking a percentage cut and has issued a statement that such behaviour is "likely to give rise to a finding of inadequate professional service". The firms have been asked to volunteer to pay back the money.

One organisation which says it will not be paying miners back any cash is the Nottinghamshire-based Union of Democratic Mineworkers (UDM). The breakaway union's own compensation processing firm Vendside has handled more than 30,000 claims – earning it more than £26m. Non-union members were charged up to £300 in lieu of union fees in order to access the scheme (although there was no need to go through a union to hire a lawyer). However, since the charges were dressed as union rather than legal fees, the Law Society ruling doesn't affect the UDM.

Plaid Cymru industry spokesman Adam Price called for an investigation of the UDM last month after its top two officials became the best paid union bosses in Britain (despite leading one of the smaller unions).

The £2bn represents less than half the money likely to be paid out during the life of the scheme.

***You can contact Paul Foot on 020 7287 3183 or the In the Back team on 020 7437 4017***

# In the City

FURTHER evidence has emerged of the close links between the British companies in the imploded Parmalat empire and the gigantic fraud carried out by founder Calisto Tanzi and his helpers.

The company records of Valuetuning show that it played a key role in one of the Dutch companies that featured in the fraud and, like Parmalat Food Holdings (UK), was run from its inception by a former Parmalat auditor and one of Tanzi's top lieutenants.

The Valuetuning accounts also show that the Dutch company's accounts had been seriously qualified after the UK company made a supposed £163m investment.

The records for Parmalat Food Holdings (PFH) also evidence balance sheet boosting internal deals and a curious choice of auditors.

Another interesting link with the unfolding scandal in Italy is further evidence of the role cronyism played in helping Tanzi, his finance director Fausto Tonna and lawyer Gian Paolo Zini to cover up the financial fantasy they created.

Banker to both Valuetuning and PFH was the very friendly local bank Cassa di Risparmio di Parma e Piacenza in Italy, unlike with the less significant Parmalat Food Imports (UK) where the London branch of Banca di Roma was banker – a more conventional arrangement.

One of Tanzi's closest advisers was Luciano Silingardi. He became head of Cassa di Risparmio which then became a big lender to Parmalat, where Silingardi later became a director. Cassa di Risparmio loaned at least £9m to PFH.

Valuetuning was set up in 1997 and during 1998 acquired 99 percent of Dairies Holding International, a Dutch company which it appears was used to raise finance for the Parmalat group in order to help hide what has become a £10bn fraud. To disguise the losses and diversion of at least £350m into other family companies, Tanzi had to continually find new ways to raise billions for Parmalat.

The two directors of Valuetuning were Rosario Calogero and Claudio Pessina. Calogero was Parmalat's auditor for three years from 1990. Three months after stepping down the Milan accountant became a director of the first of three companies in the Netherlands Antilles tax haven which, according to Italian investigators, became crucial to the siphoning of cash out of Parmalat. Calogero also became a director of Dairies Holding International. He was also a director of PFH which held shares in the group's loss-making Brazilian operations, also used to raise cash.

Pessina was also a director of the tax haven companies, Curcastle and Zilpa. He was a top employee in the Parmalat finance department under longtime finance director Fausto Tonna. Tonna was also a director of PFH. Like Tonna, Tanzi and Zini, Pessina was arrested for questioning by the investigating magistrates in December.

Valuetrading's registered office was at City solicitors Ashurst Morris Crisp, which represented Parmalat. Pessina was also a PFH director.

Valuetuning was seemingly set up simply to create a layer of offshore ownership between Parmalat in Italy and the Dutch company which in turn owned dairy operations in third countries. This created the accountancy loopholes that Tanzi, Tonna and their lawyer Gian Paolo Zini exploited, whereby no one firm of auditors saw the whole picture – key to hiding the fraud. Zini with Tonna was a director of Parmalat Food Imports.

The first accounts for Valuetuning show that those for 1998 regarding Dairies Holding International had been heavily qualified because the auditors had been unable to "carry out the necessary audit procedures on certain subsidiary companies due to geographical circumstances". As a result the audit had been for those subsidiaries "based solely on the work of other auditors".

This should have been a bright red light to Valuetuning's then auditor, BDO Stoy Hayward. It had failed to spot the billion-pound Polly Peck fraud of Asil Nadir because it had relied on a small firm of auditors in his Northern Cyprus pocket to audit all the supposed money earners there and in Turkey. In 1998 Stoys paid £26m to settle a negligence claim from the Polly Peck administrators. The firm later had to pay fines and costs of a further £325,000 after proceedings by the bean counters' joint disciplinary scheme (JDS).

The Dutch company had supposed capital and reserves of £192m but, like many Parmalat companies, was a loss-maker – £192,000 in 1998. So the qualification was significant and worthy of attention. Stoys may not have been too unhappy when it was replaced as Valuetuning's auditor in 1999 by Deloitte & Touche. D&T had been rotated in as the new Parmalat group auditor. However, its predecessor Grant Thornton – which replaced Calogero's firm, Hodgson Landau Brands – continued to audit almost half the group. By no coincidence, the Dutch part of the HLB International network audited Dairies Holding International. An HLB auditor, Herman Muus, joined Calogero and Pessina as a director from 2001.

No similar reference to qualification of the Dutch company accounts appeared again at Valuetuning under D&T. Presumably the accounts were not so qualified again. But in 1999 the £162m that Valuetuning had supposedly paid for its stake in Dairies Holding was accounted for by an issue of shares to Parmalat – a book entry consideration but no doubt booked as a profit by Parmalat.

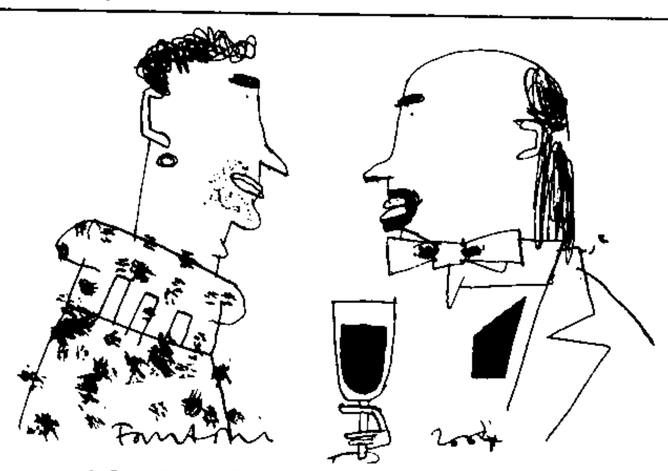
D&T signed off on the 2001 and 2002 accounts with Pessina only months before Parmalat imploded last December. There is no sign of any problem or query about the company's Dutch investment supposedly still worth the £162m purchase price. However, between 18 June and 30 July, the Valuetuning business, instead of being conducted from the UK, had suddenly moved to Luxembourg – although directors Calogero and Pessina were still in Italy!

Similar curious events are described in the company records for Parmalat Food Holdings. Interestingly, Stoys, though auditor to Valuetuning, was not auditor to PFH. When this was set up in 1996, the auditor – Reads – was not even onshore but in the Isle of Man, where the company had no business.

In 1997 PFH raised £123m in shares to finance the purchase of a 19 percent stake in Parmalat Holding Brazil, presumably from its Italian parent, thereby creating another fictitious book entry profit. During 1998 there were similar in-house deals, including the purchase of a US company, Parmalat Techold, for £63m from a group company. A year later this was sold in-house. Amounts over £39m were owed to other group companies in Holland and Brazil.

During 1999 Reads too was replaced as auditor by D&T. In 2001 £58m that was owed by Parmalat to PFH was settled by a buy back of PFH's own shares. Another device undoubtedly designed to boost Parmalat finances.

These transactions through the UK company with other parts of the Parmalat empire are certain to raise questions for D&T and the earlier auditors from not just the Italian investigators via the financial services authority (FSA) but ultimately by creditors (assets may cover at most £1.4bn of the £10bn) and the JDS.



*"The Barclays are the new Black"*

MUCH has been made of the Barclay brothers' love of privacy since they made their move for the Telegraph titles. That is perhaps not altogether surprising given some of the elements in their background which receive little or no attention.

Such as that David and Frederick are non-resident tax exiles. Before buying the Channel island of Brecqhou, the brothers lived in Monte Carlo where their business is still based.

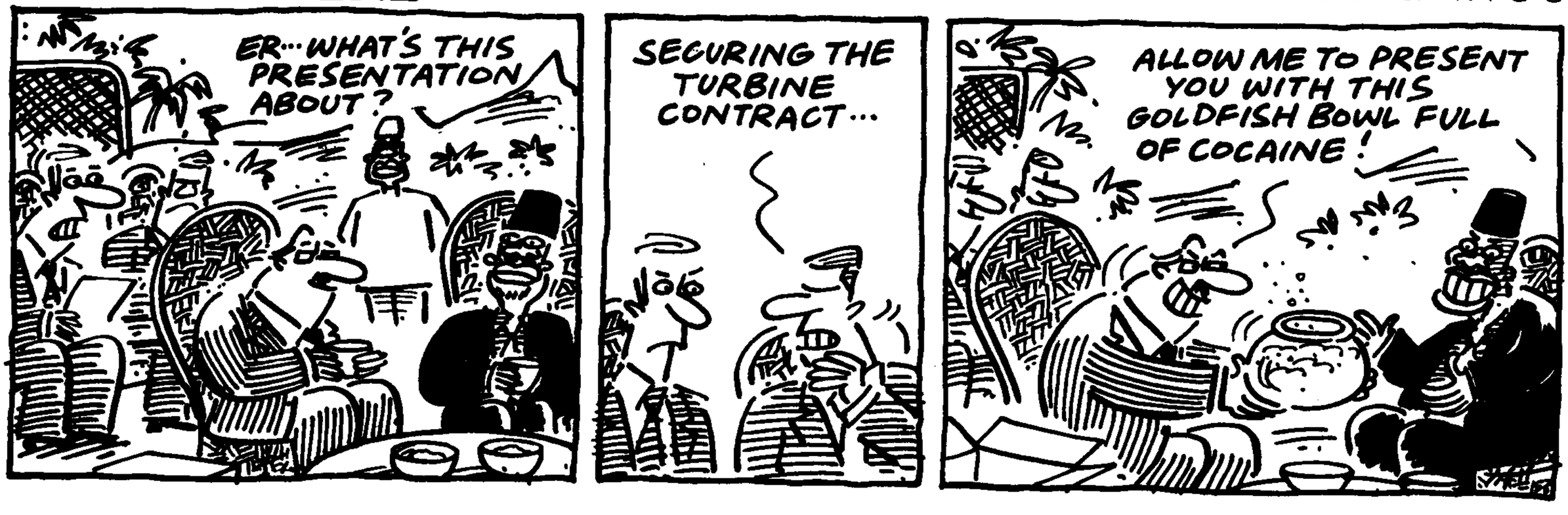
Then there is their choice of colourful business associates such as David "Spotty" Rowland, the 60s teenage asset stripper who joined them in Monaco and became their partner in their early moves into London casinos. Rowland and the Barclays owned Maxim's which was sold to Arab bust out Abdul Galadari in 1980. Rowland had bigger casino ambitions which included one at the Londonderry Hotel owned by the Barclays, but these were not encouraged by the Gaming Board.

Before Maxim's the Barclays, particularly David, had been shareholders in the Park Lane casino which was sited in the former Londonderry opposite the London Hilton and was acquired by Ladbrokes in 1975.

One of the shareholders in Hyde Park Casinos,

THE DIRECTORS

DREDGE & RIGG

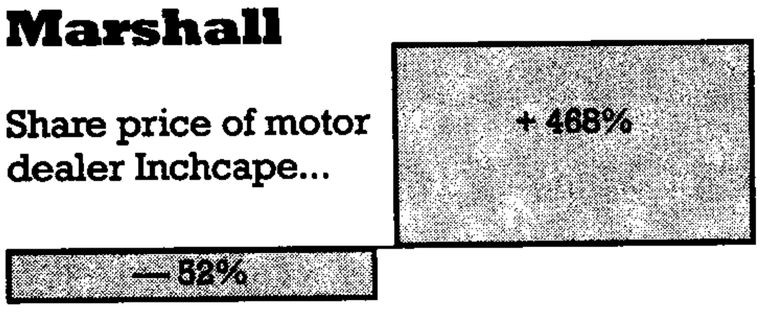

ER... WHAT'S THIS PRESENTATION ABOUT?
SECURING THE TURBINE CONTRACT...
ALLOW ME TO PRESENT YOU WITH THIS GOLDFISH BOWL FULL OF COCAINE!

# Stock Horror

by 'Bruin'

## On the anticipated City retirement of Lord Colin Marshall

Share price of motor dealer Inchcape...




...During the four years (1996-2000) he was chairman

...In the four years since

owner of the Park Lane, was Henry Kaye. This was presumably the same Henry Kaye who as senior partner of lawyers Davies Arnold Cooper was also the Barclays partner in certain property companies that received loans from the Crown Agents.

The Barclays were introduced to the Crown Agents in 1968 by Kaye's partner Jack Walker who became the naive civil servants' property adviser. By the time the relationship ended in 1974, the Crown Agents had loaned £9.5m to Barclays Hotels. The loans jumped from £4.6m in 1972 as the property market crashed. The Agents lost £6.5m (more than £50m today) when Barclays Hotels could not repay when required.

The loans were based on an assumption that Barclays Hotels – which owned the Londonderry – would be floated with the Crown Agents having an option to become shareholders. But as the 1977 Fay Report into the Crown Agents scandal – the then government-run department lost almost £200m through bad loans and investments – revealed, the Agents were warned that the deal was "high risk" and that accountants should check the projections.

However, the Barclays directors "wished to exclude from the accountants' purview the calculations and figures contained in the profit forecast and the assumptions underlying it". The Crown Agents agreed not to ask. As Fay concluded: "The profit forecast was not met, Barclays did not go public and the option as not taken up." Instead the Agents kept on making loans in a vain bid to get their money back.

Three years after Fay reported, the 1978 accounts for Barclay Hotels were qualified because of interest-free loans made to directors in breach of the companies act. And in 1982 Coopers & Lybrand resigned as auditor of Roldess, owned by Barclays Hotels and through which their stake in Maxim's was held. The reason? "Accounts as required by section 1 of the companies act have not been presented to us for audit since the first accounts of the company for the period ended 31 December 1978."

Perhaps taking privacy a little far?

WHEN Ryanair was made to pay £1,336 compensation for twice charging a disabled passenger £18 for the use of a wheelchair at Stansted, Chief Executive Michael O'Leary's response was immediately to levy a 50p surcharge pending an appeal on every ticket "to cover the cost of providing wheelchairs". Every other airline does this for free. Ryanair admitted this could boost revenues by £12m a year. Enough to provide over 650,000 wheelchairs at Stansted.

The suspicion is this mean-spirited decision has little to do with wheelchairs and everything to do with profit. That 50p will provide a much needed boost a day after Ryanair shocked the City by forecasting its first profit reversal in 15 years due to falling ticket revenues. Ryanair shares fell by a third. Happily for O'Leary he has regularly reduced his shareholding since 2000, although still with a stake big enough to hurt. But he has cashed in shares worth £110m. Enough to provide six million wheelchairs for the less fortunate.

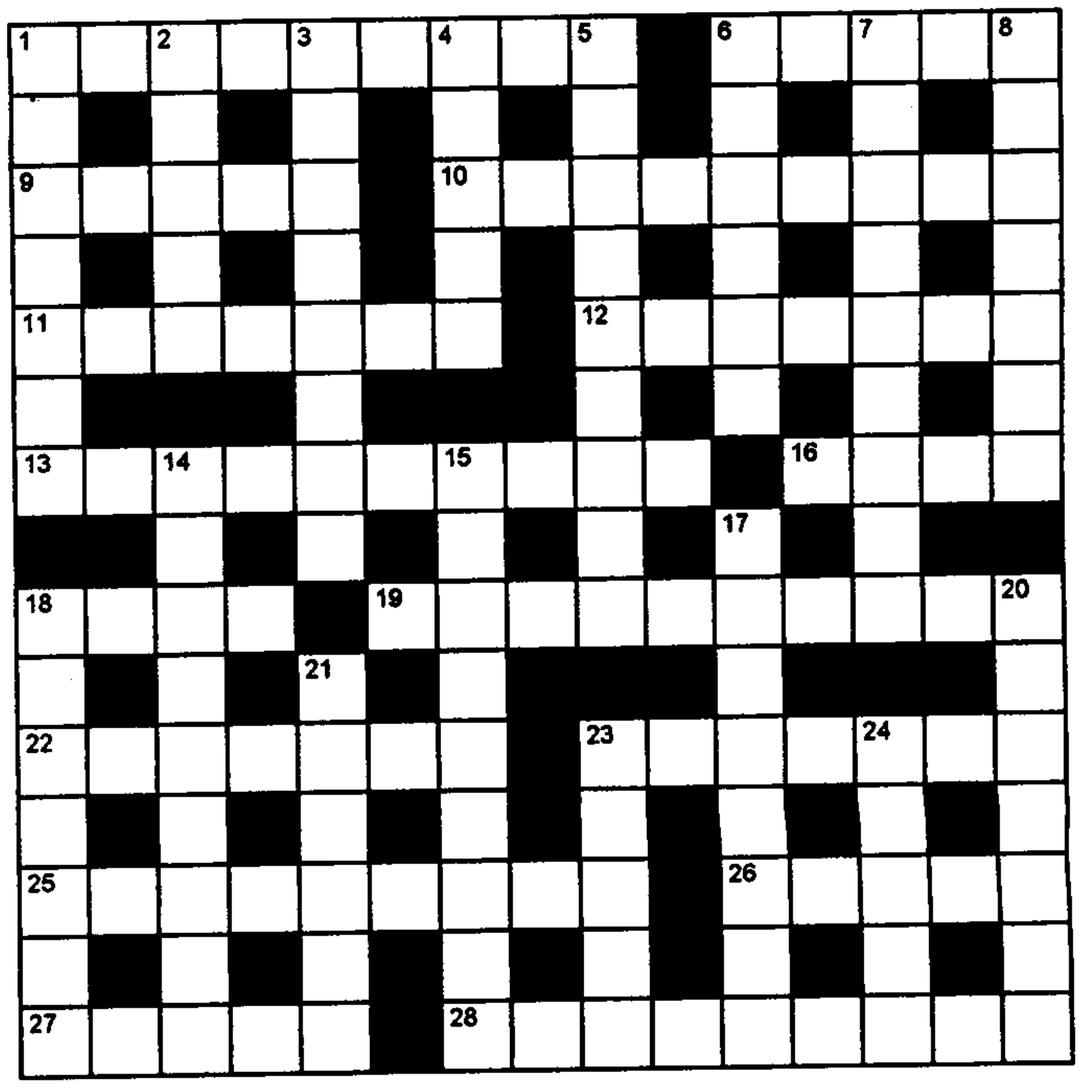
***'Slicker'***

# EYE CROSSWORD 254

by Cyclops

**£100 prize to first correct solution opened on 13 February 2004.**

**Entries to 'Crossword', Private Eye, 6 Carlisle Street, London W1D 3BN or via email to crossword@private-eye.co.uk**



### ACROSS

1 Old Spice constituent once – a con almost (9)
6 Woman of diminished sex appeal featured in tabloid (5)
9 Island shows Yeo and what he is – extremely lacking (5)
10 Dismissive description of French troops on the move: "run off the premises"? (9)
11 Poor Tone, without foreign aid, taking less in (2,1,4)
12 The stuff of Oasis brother – sex and drink (7)
13 Specifically, *www.as-jonathan-would-say.edu/cation (3,5,2)*
16 Norm has runs but she kept her head (4)
18 Gets the better of spots (4)
19 Master of spin "heading off entire retreat of Saddam" (6,4)
22 Whip gives a big wave, while holding firm (7)
23 Reportedly has the lowdown on long suffering sort, Jacko's physical 'enhancement'? (4,3)
25 Place underground has to contend with what John Humphrys and co. do (9)
26 Chucks one off the flight for "boisterous birthday celebrations" (5)
27 State of US misspelled by Quayle (5)
28 Space for Moore to back conclusion of editorial and grovel internally (5,4)

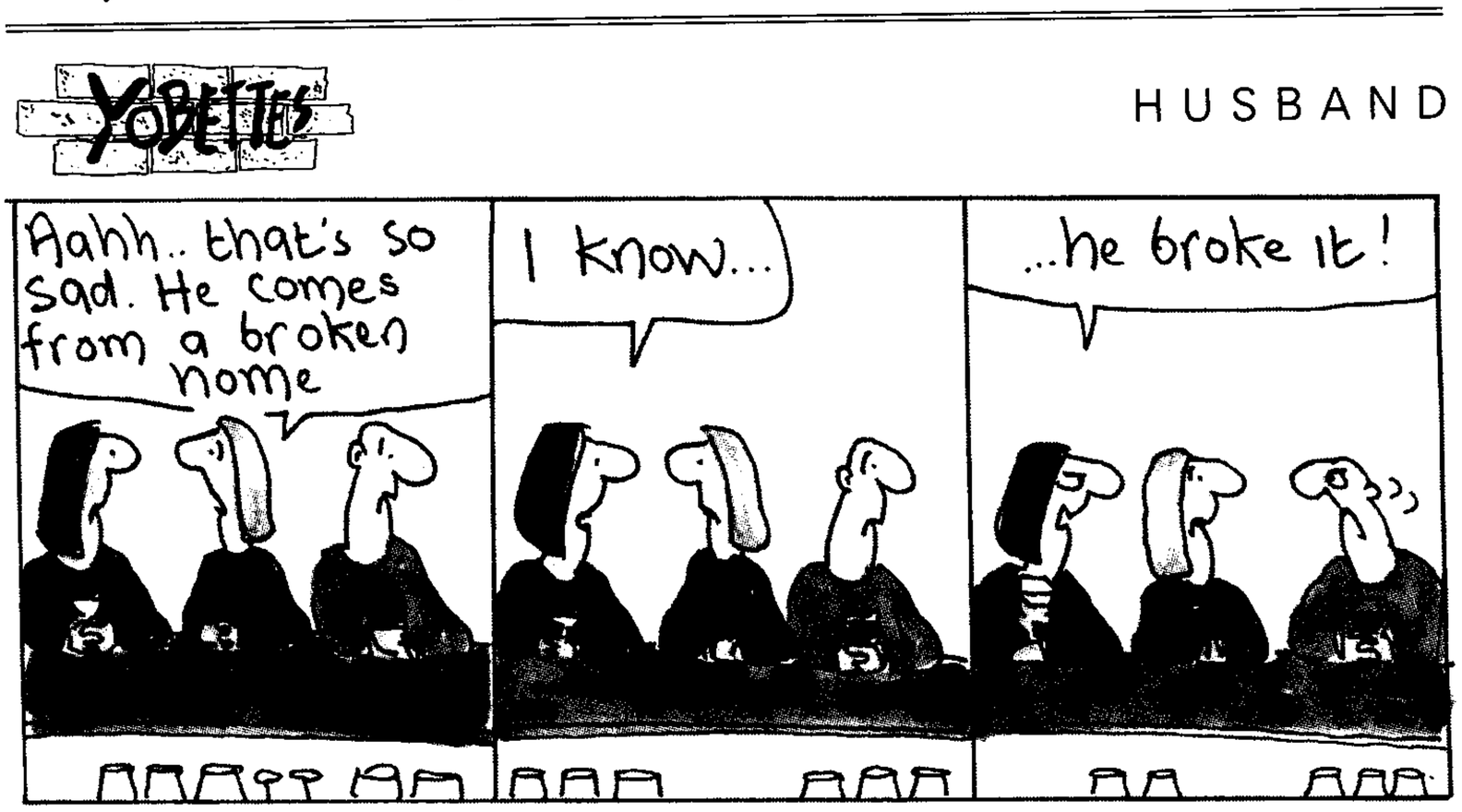
### DOWN

1 Let's go to Rock Junction? Piss off! (3,4)
2 Sweet arse-over-tip sailor's leaving the dance (5)
3 Like a good preservative jar gets Melody pissed? (8)
4 A crafty makeover and stuck-up Brenda's sexually attractive (5)
5 Beaten with clothes on? (9)
6 Climax, seeing Melinda's top doubly festooned with diamonds, say (6)
7 Party whip first to grab Secretary for torture (9)
8 "Phone or otherwise" – Michael Howard when it comes to being PM? (2-5)
14 Did a Fiennes, going without sex: "not right to be taken advantage of" (9)
15 Just one of many Nixon had to take out? (9)
17 Archer might have one interbreed somewhere in London (8)
18 President takes issue about Southern term for "naughty bits" (7)
20 Take into one's affections Cyclops's erection point in middle of bang (7)
21 Test produces a rather boring, singular form of diarrhoea? (3,3)
23 Prince: "there's catch about one taking wife" (5)
24 Brand covers bum product (extra large) (5)

## Crossword 253 winner: GEOFF WILLIAMS

ACROSS: 1 Dead drunk 6 Becks 9 Sarcasm 10 Nerdish 11 The bum's rush 12 Flu 13 Posing 15 Skipjack 18 Dandruff 19 Briefs 22 Gnu 23 Quality time 25 Upstand 26 Plays up 27 Sushi 28 Necklines.

DOWN: 1 Desktop 2 Agree 3 Do a runner 4 Unmask 5 Kentucky 6 Birth 7 Cliff face 8 Schmuck 14 Sunbursts 16 Party wall 17 Off and on 18 Dugouts 20 Steppes 21 Biopic 23 Quasi 24 Ibsen.



The Open University

# Open up your potential.

Looking for more out of life? Feel undervalued? Believe you have more to offer? If you want to advance in your job, make a career change or simply want to explore a subject you're fascinated by, The Open University is exactly what you're looking for.

You can choose from 199 nine-month courses, 32 diplomas, 25 undergraduate degrees and a range of postgraduate qualifications. We also offer five introductory courses and 20 short courses. Subjects available include: Computing, Business Management, Technology, Modern Languages, Social Sciences, English Law, Arts, Science, Mathematics, Education and Health & Social Welfare.

The Open University is the acknowledged expert in helping people study in their own time. We'll give you a tutor to support you and the chance to meet and exchange ideas with your fellow students. The experience and the sense of achievement you get is unforgettable. It's real value for money *and you can pay by instalments.*

**Did you know?**

- **70% of OU undergraduate students remain in full-time employment throughout their studies**
- **25% of all British MBAs' come from the OU**
- **Over 30,000 employers have sponsored their staff on OU courses**
- **150,000 OU students are online from home**
- **Courses can be studied outside the UK**

*'Accredited by The Association of MBAs.*

**Call the OU 24 hr Hotline quoting ref UGEAAX 0870 9000 301**

**Advisers available 8.30 - 5.00pm**

**www.open.ac.uk/brochure/**

**To:** The Open University, PO Box 625, Milton Keynes MK7 6YG
Please send me the following prospectus(es):
☐ Undergraduate Courses and Qualifications (CDD05)
☐ Higher Degrees (HD05) **Complete in BLOCK CAPITALS**
Title Initials Surname
Address
Postcode Date of Birth / /
Tel (Day/Evening)
Email Code: UGEAAX



# Corruption

by Michael Cruddas

*Who is trying to destroy Middle Britain and why?*

*Who are the puppeteers pulling Blair's strings?*

*Who arranged the theft of billions from Lloyd's of London and BCCI to Enron and Parmelat?*

*Who really made the decision to invade Iraq? And why?*

*Why is all history bunk?*

If you want to completely re-orientate your thinking read this extraordinary story.

*£22.50 including P&P. Order from:*
**Belgravia Publications, P.O. Box 27,**
**Bourton on the Water, Cheltenham GL54 2ZG**
**Or order by telephone 01451 823115**
**From your local bookshop ISBN 0-780954592202**



*They had very different ideas about 'spicing things up a little'!*

*The finest Mustards, Chutneys and Relishes, from Tracklements.*

For details of your nearest stockist visit our website or call our freephone number: 0800 731 3229
www.tracklements.co.uk
The Dairy Farm, Sherston, Wiltshire, SN16 0NX

*Up to 3 million pixel quality, with large preview screen*

# Pocket Video Camcorder & Digital Camera for under £100

## Exclusive Dream Direct Offer

~~£129.99~~* **£99.99** + P&P

SAVE £30

### Exceptional value

Video cameras needn't cost hundreds of pounds and we think you'll agree that our pocket video and digital camera offers remarkable value for under £100, a saving of £30 on our usual price*.

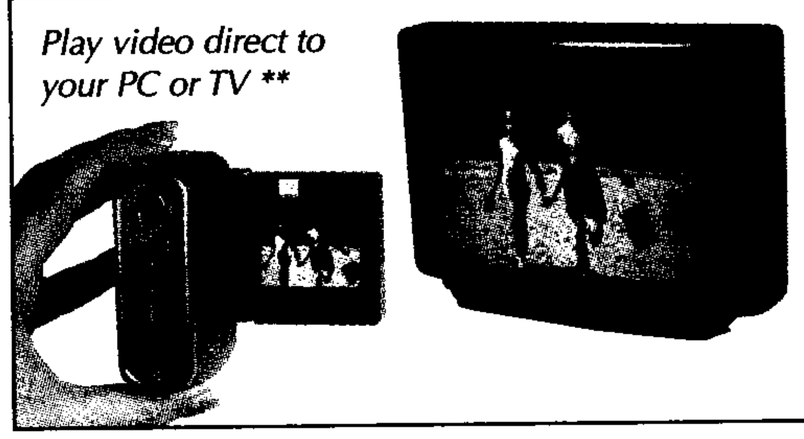
### Pocket sized with a punch

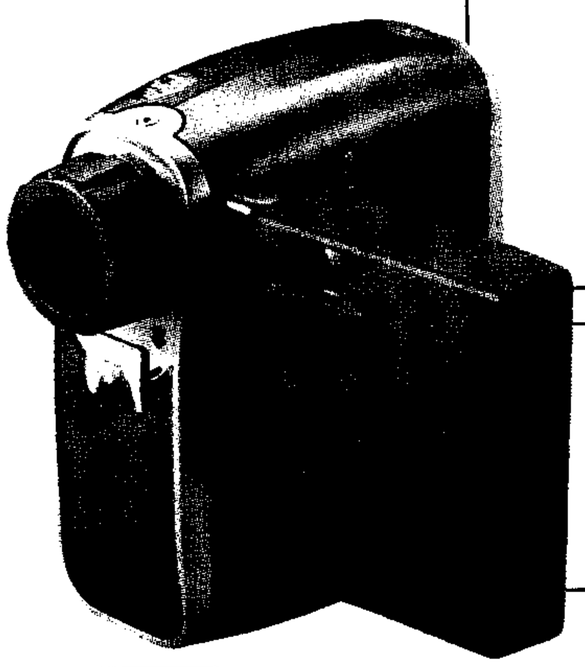
You can take our lightweight video camcorder and digital camera anywhere because it measures a tiny 8.5 x 4cm and weighs just 170g (with batteries). The picture and sound quality is remarkably good for its size, offering 2 million pixels for photos (enhanced to 3.1 million using the software supplied) and 320 x 240 resolution for video. You can replay your video clips and photos on the camera's 3.5 cm flip-out colour screen, saving only the ones you want, or view them directly on your PC (high resolution) or TV (low resolution). Pop your clips and photos on to your PC to share them with friends and family by email or edit your photos and videos with the software provided. Its internal 6MB memory will store up to 88 pictures or 90 seconds of video but use one of our insertable CompactFlash memory cards listed below to store much more.

### Everything You Need

- Tripod and handy carrying strap
- Connecting leads to a PC (USB cable)
- Connecting leads to a TV (AV/TV) note: your TV requires a Scart Adaptor **
- 2 AA batteries
- Photo and video editing software (Photo Express 4 SE, Photo Explorer 7 SE, Movie Factory)

*Play video direct to your PC or TV* **





### CompactFlash Memory Cards Available

| | *Max Video* | *Max Photos (low resolution)* | |
|---|---|---|---|
| 64MB Card | an extra 16 mins | 896 | **£26.99** |
| 128MB Card | an extra 32 mins | 1792 | **£39.99** |

Post to: Dream Direct Ltd, Granville Way, Bicester, OX26 4JT.

**. Trust**

Minimum Specification: P200, RAM 64MB, Windows 98/ME/2000, or RAM 128MB, Windows XP, USB Port

**DREAM GUARANTEE**

- **28 day Money Back Guarantee†**
- **Secure online ordering**
- **Guidance & installation help**
- **Normally shipped in 7 days**

† Please return faulty items or sealed products within 28 days for a full refund or replacement. This does not affect your statutory rights.

* Dream Direct's current price for equivalent model £129.99

## Order now on 0870 787 4411

24 hours, 7 days a week

Secure online ordering enter **ZAR13** in the search box

**DREAMdirect.co.uk**

Mr/Mrs/Miss/ _____

Name _____

Address _____

_____

Postcode _____

Daytime Tel _____

(so we can contact you immediately with any queries)

**Email** _____

Post to: Dream Direct Ltd, Granville Way, Bicester, OX26 4JT.

If you do not wish to receive offers from carefully selected companies please tick ☐

‡ P&P includes packaging, handling and free delivery insurance in addition to postal costs which we pay direct to Royal Mail and Parcelforce on your behalf. We cannot guarantee you will receive packaging as illustrated. We occasionally monitor and record telephone calls to ensure service is of the highest standard.

| PLEASE SEND ME | CODE | PRICE | QTY | TOTAL |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| **622AV Pocket Video** | ZAR13 | £99.99 | | £ |
| **CompactFlash 64MB Card** | ZAR13B | £26.99 | | £ |
| **CompactFlash 128MB Card** | ZAR13C | £39.99 | | £ |
| | | | Plus P&P | £ |
| Add £3.49 P&P or for Next Day Express add £7.98‡ | | | **TOTAL** | **£** |

I enclose a cheque/postal order payable to Dream Direct or please debit my Master Card / Visa / Switch / Delta / Solo for the above amount. Sorry, we do not accept Electron.

Card No ☐☐☐☐☐☐☐☐☐☐☐☐☐☐☐☐

Start Date ☐☐☐☐ Signature _____

Expiry Date ☐☐☐☐

Issue No (Switch only) ☐☐

Card Security ☐☐☐

Last 3 digits in the signature box on the back of your card

**DREAMdirect**

Enjoy the power of your PC

© 2004 Dream Direct Limited

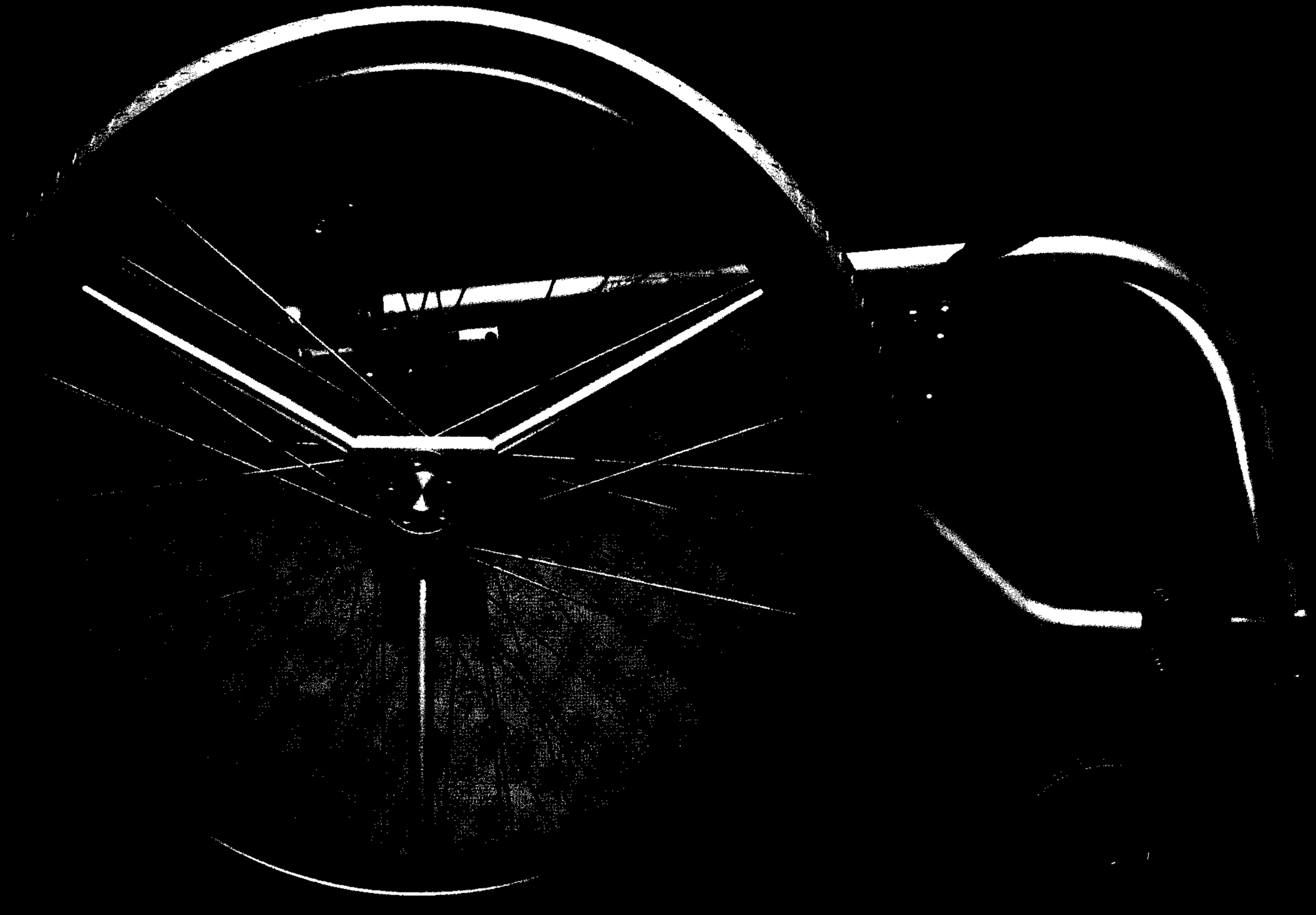
**Media Code: ZAR13**

MANUAL ASSIST iGLIDE™ WHEELCHAIR

Laugh at hills.

Defy carpet.

Sail over grass.



*Introducing the world's first wheelchair with Manual Assist—*
*an instant, on-demand boost.*

At first glance, the iGLIDE™ Manual Assist Wheelchair will impress you on looks alone. Yet, discreetly concealed within its elegant frame are state-of-the-art advances. Advances you activate with just a push of the handrim. Instantly, you get an extra boost whenever and wherever you need it. The response is smooth, fluid, and quiet. Across uneven ground. Up and down inclines. Practically anywhere you want to go.

See the iGLIDE™ Manual Assist Wheelchair in action at www.iglidenow.com Discover how it can give you a greater feeling of confidence and control. And go further, for longer, with less effort than ever before.

*Visit www.iglidenow.com, or call 0800 783 9187.*

INDEPENDENCE™
iGLIDE™
*Manual Assist Wheelchair*

**INDEPENDENCE** TECHNOLOGY
a Johnson & Johnson company

© Independence Technology, L.L.C., 2003

# Limited edition specials crammed with fruit – **JUST £49.99**

*"For wines that give you an almost irresistible urge to order another bottle before the first is even finished – Australia currently leads the world"* Oz Clarke's New Classic Wines

**Enjoy twelve deliciously ripe reds from Australia as your introduction to Laithwaites, the UK's leading home delivery wine specialist. Order the Aussie Reds Showcase for JUST £49.99 (normally £80)** plus £4.99 p&p **and you'll SAVE OVER £30.**

Australia's climate and the dedication of its top winemakers over the last two decades have seen it offer a serious quality challenge to the more famous wine regions of Europe. A far cry from anything you'll find in the supermarket, the most characterful examples come from smaller independent cellars and offer near-fathomless depths of rich fruit flavour.

Pride of place goes to Dark Corner Durif. Big, black and bold with a coveted Gold medal, it comes from Australia's landmark 2002 vintage – when a cooler than usual growing season gave dramatic intensity to the country's reds. Gems like brambly Allenby Point Merlot and the Forbes Estate Sangiovese are exceptionally vibrant for this reason and excel with winter food. Also included ... classic Shiraz in the shape of Oxley's Stone and Yallum Ridge, plus one of Laithwaites most re-ordered reds – juicy, satin-smooth Yarrunga Field. A rising star from Victoria's King Valley completes the picture alongside intense Stockmans Shiraz Cabernet.

With our 100% guarantee of enjoyment, you've nothing to lose! Each of these top Aussie reds sells for around £7 per bottle yet will set you back just £4.17 – strictly while stocks last.

**In addition to the Aussie Reds Showcase, you will receive:**

- **AWARD** winning, personal service – no automated call handling
- **FREE** tasting notes and 16-page Laithwaites Wine Guide
- **NO COMMITMENT** to any further purchases
- **FAST** and convenient delivery direct to your door

Introductory offer – new Laithwaites customers only. Purchasers must be 18 years or over. One case per household while stocks last. In the unlikely event of a wine becoming unavailable, a substitute of similar style and of equal or greater value will be supplied. Most wine should arrive within a week, but please allow 14 days for delivery. UK addresses only, excluding Channel Islands. Direct Wines will use information about you to make offers based on your wine preferences. This information may be shared with companies within the Direct Wines group. If you do not wish to receive further offers please write or call 0870 444 8181. Calls charged at national rate. Direct Wines Ltd, trading as Laithwaites, New Aquitaine House, Exeter Way, Theale, Reading RG7 4PL. Inset image supplied by Cephas.

*"For 35 years it has been my mission to seek out 'real' wines: those with the extra flavour and character to stand out from the crowd. Unlike the big brands that dominate the supermarkets, real wines are made in small volumes by the world's craftsman winemakers. I buy them direct to guarantee quality and pass the savings on to you. I really want you to enjoy this introductory offer – and will give your money back if you do not like any wine. No questions asked!"*

**TONY LAITHWAITE** CHAIRMAN

## LIMITED STOCKS – ORDER TODAY

YES, please send me **The Aussie Reds Showcase** for just **£54.98 (£49.99 plus £4.99 p&p)**

Phone – 0870 444 8181 or order online at www.laithwaites.co.uk/kg73 or complete this form and return it with your payment to: Laithwaites, FREEPOST (SCE6179), Reading RG7 4ZW.

Title Initials Surname

Address

Postcode

Please indicate a safe place to leave if out (e.g. in garage)

Daytime Telephone Evening Telephone

e-mail address

☐ Please tick if you wish to receive special offers from Laithwaites via e-mail.

MOPS protection only covers the direct ordering of products advertised at the price specified in this advertisement.

I enclose a cheque for the amount indicated made payable to **'Laithwaites'**
or please charge my VISA / MASTERCARD / AMEX / DINERS CLUB / SWITCH number:

Expiry date:

Switch issue number:

Signature (I am over 18 years of age) Date

Call **0870 444 8181** Quote KG73

www.laithwaites.co.uk/kg73

don't send roses... send r★fur for Valentines Day

...and your message will last forever and ever

cute, furry and fun! r★fur will personally deliver your special message, tucked safely inside his rucksack, with massive style and impact.

r★fur is a luxurious mohair bear, designed and concepted by stacey lee terry of bo bear designs

TO SEND r★fur (secure online ordering)
www.sendrfur.com

OR CALL (lines open 24 hours)
0870 755 7387

NOW £35*

approx 20cm tall ™© Bo Bear Designs 2004 - all rights reserved.

* Includes Royal Mail First Class Post. Special Delivery strongly recommended to guarantee delivery on 14th February 2004

BIRTHDAY NEWSPAPERS

Births, Birthdays, Weddings, Christenings, Anniversaries, Retirements. Papers from archives 1642-2003. Sundays from 1915. Quality presentations. Same day dispatch.

REMEMBER WHEN
445 Brighton Road,
Croydon, Surrey CR2 6EU
www.remember-when.co.uk

020 8763 6363
or call FREE 0500 520 000

★ STOCKBROKERS • DOCTORS • ADVERTISING • ACCOUNTANTS • ARCHITECTS ★

MARKETING • DESIGNERS

drawing down *the* moon

PERSONAL INTRODUCTION CONSULTANTS - THE FIRST AND FINEST

"a partner for life...that's where Drawing Down the Moon comes in"
FINANCIAL TIMES

020-7937 6263
www.drawingdownthemoon.co.uk
Head Office: Adam & Eve Mews, Kensington. City Office: Cannon Street
24 hours. Member ABIA. Est. 1984

EDUCATIONALISTS • WRITERS

★ MEDIA COMPANY DIRECTORS • LAWYERS • PR • BANKERS • SCIENTISTS ★

Loveand friends.com

internet dating for thinking people

...and suppers too!

only lunch

ONLY LUNCH

*the professional introduction service*

HOW PEOPLE LIKE YOU
MEET PEOPLE LIKE YOU
0800 908900
www.onlylunch.co.uk

FIONA SMYTHE INTRODUCTIONS

*The Introduction Agency with a real difference.*

A bespoke personal and discreet service to all our members at affordable fees. Based in South West London, all members are interviewed and vetted.
Call 020 8785 2906 or email:
fiona_smythe@msn.com

BULGARIA.

Beautiful town villa in Veliko Turnovo - the city of Kings. Historical and cultural interest, art, craft and tradition. Tel: 01684 593404
www.BulgariaDiscovered.com

Finest Quality 'Grass Fed' Argentine Beef

Order Line: 01580 819672/ 07790 058735

Email: info@fhfoods.com

WE COPY TO DVD AND VHS for £10
CAMCORDER TAPES, VHS & BETAMAX TAPES, WE ALSO COPY CINE FILMS, SLIDES & PHOTOGRAPHS
TO DVD & VHS
AUDIO TAPES TO CASSETTE & CD
ALL TAPES REPAIRED & COPIED
FREE TRIAL OFFER
TEL. FOR FREE INFO 01454 772857 24 HRS
or visit www.movid.co.uk

Speed-Dates-UK

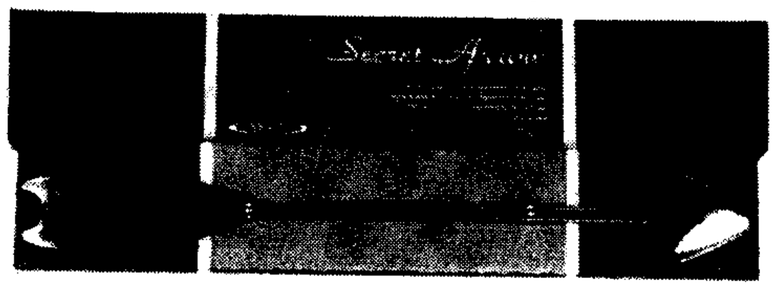
...Stop waiting Start Dating...
Enjoy 15 to 20 five minute dates & a free cocktail
To book go to www.speed-dates-uk.com or call 07788 955411

Support Tony

Bliar

Bliar T-Shirts Available At
TEEMARTO.COM
Tel: 020 8747 4554

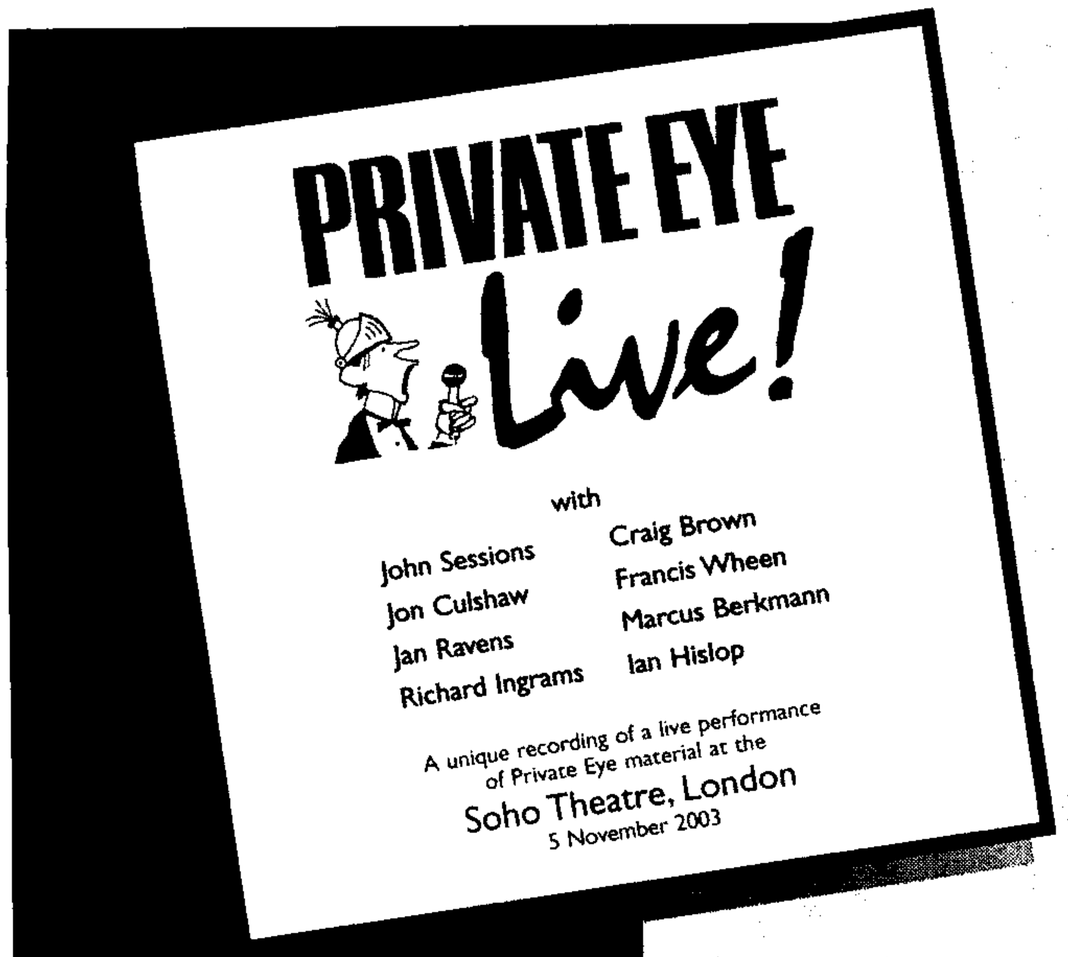
Secret Arrow £19.99 plus £1.99 P&P



ENJOY www.enjoy.co.uk 0870 242 1808

To reach over 600,000 potential customers please call David Lancaster on 020 7878 2316 or Carol Imlay on 020 7878 2303 to discuss advertising in PRIVATE EYE

# SUBSCRIBE TO PRIVATE EYE and receive a FREE CD!




## 58 MAGNIFICENT MINUTES OF PRIVATE EYE LIVE!

**A unique performance taking the magazine off the page and onto the stage. Featuring:**
**The Last Ever Dear Bill Letter**
**The Vicar of St Albion**
**The Rev. Dubya of the Church of the Latter-Day Morons**
**Dumb Britain... *and much, much more!***

## Already a subscriber?

**Order a CD for only £1.25 (to cover p&p).**

Just call 0870 750 1714, 9.30am-5.30pm Mon-Fri, giving your subscription details and quoting code CD1099.

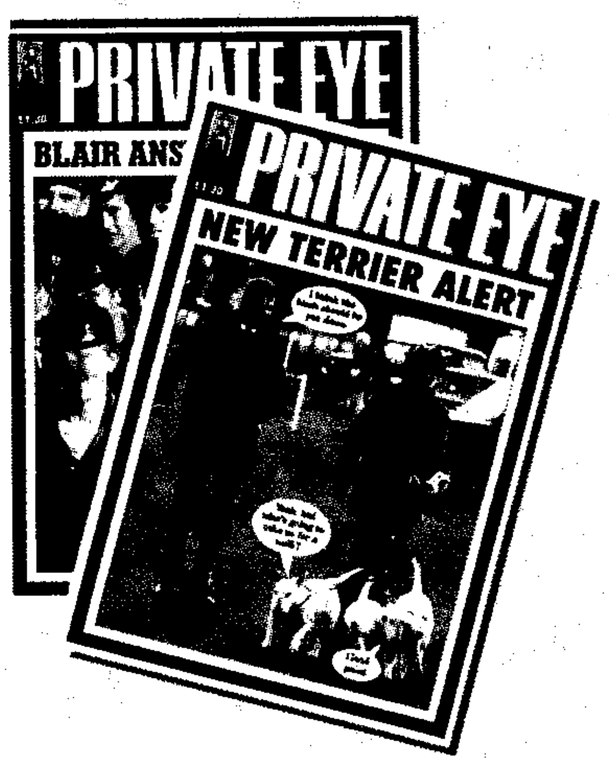
**FREE CD worth £5.99* when you subscribe to PRIVATE EYE**

**It's only £21 for 26 issues (UK)**

**IT'S EASY TO ORDER – CALL 0870 750 1714**

(9.30am-5.30pm Mon-Fri)
Overseas callers: +44 (0) 1795 414 871

Order online at
**www.private-eye.co.uk**
or use the form below.




ORDER FORM TO: **PRIVATE EYE SUBSCRIPTIONS**, PO Box 326, Sittingbourne, Kent, ME9 8FA.
CD DELIVERED WITHIN 14 DAYS. FREE CD OFFER APPLIES TO NEW SUBSCRIBERS ONLY.

**Please send PRIVATE EYE for one year (26 issues) plus a FREE CD to:**

Title ..... Initial ..... Surname .....

Address .....

..... Postcode .....

**GIFT ORDER? Please give your name and address details below and we will send you a Private Eye gift card:**

Title ..... Initial ..... Surname .....

Address .....

..... Postcode .....

Your daytime telephone no .....

*Price to non-subscribers.

❑ UK £21.00 ❑ Europe & Eire £29.00 ❑ Rest of World £35.00

❑ I enclose a Sterling cheque payable to PRIVATE EYE (overseas subscribers can also pay by International Money Order)

**OR** ❑ Please charge my MasterCard/VISA/SWITCH (issue number____)

Card number |_|_|_|_|_|_|_|_|_|_|_|_|_|_|_|_|

Expiry date |_|_|_|_|

(SWITCH only)

Signature ..... Date .....

Email .....

Source code: N1099

# PRIVATE EYE

## CLASSIFIED 020 7240 9129

**£2.50 per word (£25 min charge)**
**Colour box £12 Box number £12**
**All charges VAT inclusive**

**Deadline for February 20th issue: February 10th**

**You can email your ad to: private-eye@mcmslondon.co.uk or fax: 020 7379 7118**

Reply to Box Numbers at address below:
Private Eye,
McMillan-Scott,
10 Savoy Street
London WC2E 7HR

## EYE BET

**BET ON CHESS**. Odds are available on all major Chess events. www.BetonChess.co.uk

**£500 BECOMES £40,000** in 12 months. Let us show you how. Ring: 0870 062 3321 (recorded message) or 01424 421 038 for a chat

## EYE COLLECT

**PLEASURE AND INVESTMENT.** Autographs and memorabilia. Call Europe's largest dealer – Freephone 0800 731 0852 or www.frasersautographs.com

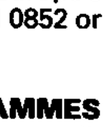
**OLD FOOTBALL PROGRAMMES** wanted. 020 8306 2194 email: David.sturge@btopenworld.com

**DON'T THROW AWAY** those Xmas round robins! Send them to us for safekeeping. Be they modest, smug, boastful, funny, sad, they need to be kept for posterity. Anonymity guaranteed. Please send to: Round Robin Letters, 80-81 St Martins Lane London, WC2N 4AA

**ANTIQUE CLOCK RESTORATION.** Harrogate, Stamford and London. Experienced, qualified and insured. Many satisfied Eye readers. www.clockrepairer.co.uk 020 7504 7082

**www.angliabookauctions.com** The place to buy or sell collectable books, comics, annuals

## EYE NOVELTIES



**BIRTHDAY** Newspapers FREEPHONE 0800 906609 www.historic-newspapers.co.uk

**TITLES – LORD, LADY** *etc. Tel/Fax* **0800 652 6641. www.elitetitles.co.uk.**

**GIFTS FOR THE REDHEAD IN YOUR LIFE** www.redandproud.com – Tel: 01844 274635

**RUSSIAN WATCHES:** Catalogue available. Tel (0115) 9827741. www.russian watches.co.uk

**FART MACHINE,** remote control, outrageous. Brilliant at meetings or restaurants or anywhere: cheques £39.99 including p&p, payable to Axelpark Limited. Reply Box 80627

**REARVIEW MIRROR** spy sunglasses – catch out anyone cheating on you, or just be nosy, £29.99 including p&p. Cheques payable to Axelpark Limited. Reply Box 80629

**ARE THESE THE HOTTEST PEOPLE** around: Dave, Blair, Juan? No idea what we're talking about? Visit www.chilliworld.com for the hottest chilli head experience on the planet

**SEND ANONYMOUS** text message via the INTERNET. Spoof the SENDER ID. www.txtmit.com 1 2 many or 1 2 1

## EYE ESCAPE

**BEACH HOLIDAYS BORING?** Chamonix-Mont-Blanc climbing courses. www.icicle-mountaineering.ltd.uk 07980 310 253

**www.tenerifeclubclass.com** Over 200 apartments on 15 complexes in 6 different resorts. Save up to 70% on high street prices by booking direct with the owners. Tel: 01823 433788

**4-BED HOUSE** on Lot River. £55,000. www.zyworld.com/JamesGordon

**TWIXT ENGLAND & WALES?** Clear Air & Pure Water. Try the real thing @ Colwall Park Hotel, Malvern - Courtesy & Care Award. Restaurant of the Year Award. Gourmet breaks from £75 pppn 2+nts. Tel: 01684 540000 – www.colwall.com

**13TH CENTURY MANOR: HOUSE-PARTIES / REUNIONS.** Sleeps 24. Tennis / swimming. Services as required. Idyllic setting, Somerset / Devon border. Tel 0870 752 4501. www.gerbestonemanor.com

**SOUTHERN SPAIN**: Houses with pools, reasonable rates. www.valle-de-lecrin.com Email: ashdown_mc@compuserve.com. Tel: 01535 2711 84

**DORDOGNE: RURAL FARM HOUSE,** sleeps 8. Details: 07774 841557 suzy@suzygale.fsworld.co.uk

**EASY ON-LINE** Travel Insurance. Single Trip or Annual Policies. From £10.00 www.ribtravel.co.uk

**PROVENCE, HISTORIC COTIGNAC.** Traditional stone house, sleeps 4. Nice, Aix 70 minutes. Rural walks and good food and wine. From £250pw. Tel: 01788 569626

**ORKNEY, SEASIDE COTTAGE,** sleeps 4. Near shops, all seasons. Ring 01294 467642

**ENCHANTING CHATEAU** to yourselves, 125 acres. Private swimming pool, tennis, maid, piano www.chateau-rentals.com 01256 782961

## EYE FINANCE

**WE INCORPORATE** companies UK and Overseas. Tel: 01306 888542. www.formacompany.com/pe

**KNOW YOUR CUSTOMERS?** Know your crooks too! Regulatory Intelligence Agency. www.the-ria.com

**GUARANTEED SPANISH BANK ACCOUNTS** – no credit checks, no visits. With cheque book and credit cards. 01299 250464

**PRESTIGIOUS OR ANONYMOUS** London business / personal address required? Expocentric offers the cheapest mailboxes in London at our prestigious London addresses in Mayfair, Covent Garden, Westminster, and Soho. Only £99, (plus VAT) for one year. See www.expocentric.co.uk for more details

**SMALL PRIVATES? . . . OR LARGE COMMERCIAL DEALS!** FOREIGN EXCHANGE. Why donate to banks? Best rates – worldwide remittance. ALL CHEQUES CASHED. Personal cheques cashed and held 28 days. CREDIT CARD ADVANCES. INTERNET CENTRE - Courses! Open 7 days! Interchange, 4 Marble Arch, London W1H7AP. Tel: 0800 072 4780 or 020 7723 0007

**PROBLEMS GETTING** a mortgage? www.e-mortgage-zone.co.uk

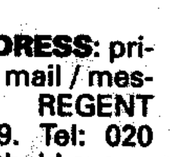
**THE OXFORD AND FRANCE** Property Investment Company. We specialise in acquiring residential properties in Oxford and the Dordogne to renovate and let or sell. Details of our current syndicates from 0871 717 4304

## EYE HOMES

**£169,950. NEW 2-BED FLAT:** Apsley, Hemel Hempstead. Euston 30 minutes. Email: harriethouse@hotmail.com

**FANTASTIC** 70ft canal boat, Central London mooring, £85,000 o.n.o. 020 7924 7256 07767 660361

## EYE HELP



**PROFESSIONAL LIABILITY** CLAIMS. Lost out due to bad advice? Why don't you sue your adviser? Contact GORVINS SOLICITORS and we'll do it for you. FREEPHONE 0800 214531 or E-mail enquiries@gorvins.com

**LET DOWN BY** Sue, Grabbit and Runne? Don't let them get away with it. Professional negligence claims on a no win no fee basis. Freephone 08000 523620 or visit www.proneg.co.uk.

**SORT IT!** Obsessive-compulsive organises files, archives, libraries. Business or personal, computer or paper. Free quote. 07771 562863 – sorted@meister.com

**DO YOU WANT** companionship, conversation? Educated lady resides in Spain, available for holidays, cultural visits and social occasions etc. Rates available on request. 0034 666 269128

**BANKRUPTCY ASSOCIATION:** Independent advice on debt problems. Website: www.theba.org.uk Telephone: 01524 64305

**ACCOMMODATION ADDRESS**: private, discreet, confidential mail / message holding service, REGENT STREET. Established 1979. Tel: 020 7580 4242. Email: enquiry@hold-everything.com – www.hold-everything.com

**VIAGRA: GENUINE PFIZER** tablets cheapest price guaranteed. paypill.com tel: 07050 139393

**PERSONAL INJURY**. No fees, no worries, no bullshit. Justice for victims 0800 587 7745

**ATTENTION!** Never paint or repair the outside of your home again! Call (0800) 083 1383. www.neverpaintagain.co.uk

**SPRING CLEAN EARLY** this year! www.e4enemas.com 4 cleansing... 4pleasure... 4health

**SPERM DONOR AVAILABLE**. Healthy alpha male, high IQ, email: richard_8888@msn.com

**HOUSE CONVEYANCING** by specialist solicitors. Very competitive rates; telephone 01252 874865 for free quotation or email info@buckland slaw.co.uk

## EYE SEEK

**HELP!** Enthusiastic BPhil DPhil graduate, recently released from college library, desperate to do something serious with his life. Find me a challenge that requires a first-class analytical brain, tenacious powers of concentration and a powerfully creative imagination – before somebody else does. eye_eye@hotmail.com

**D&AD AWARD-WINNING** copywriter seeks new projects. I write for advertising, marketing, design, business-to-business and all manner of publications. Reasonable rates Talented Composer can write music for special occasions: reasonable rates: www.andrew-henderson.com (07779) 763121for unreasonably good work: please call 0790 535 9712

**ATTRACTIVE, HARD-WORKING,** sociable academic (philosophy, social research, Spanish), mid-50s, seeks interesting job with good pay. London preferred. Reply Box 80783

**PA TO CELEB**, (moving to USA), seeks another celeb to look after. Flexible attitude. Call Susan, 07966 257 964

**TALENTED COMPOSER:** Can write music for special occasions: reasonable rates: www.andrew-henderson.com (07779) 763121

## EYE MOVES

**MOVING STUFF.** Transit couriers and light removals professional, insured. 020 7622 0511.

**JAMES MOVES** your household/office possessions. Boxes/storage available. Tel: 020 8208 1497

## EYE HEAR

**JUKEBOX PARTY HIRE.** CDs and/or 7" vinyl. Including ROCKOLA BUBBLER. £150+ delivered. 020 8318 2852 – www.wce-jukeboxes.co.uk

## EYE READ

**WWW.ICEHOUSEBOOKS.CO.UK** We buy and sell your kind of books 0116 292 1964

**CHOOSE THE NEWS** at www.punchycomment.com

**WORTH A VISIT?** Oh yes! www.francisbennion.com

**www.InfinityJunction.com** – interesting books our speciality, buy on-line, sell, publish

**FREE BOOKSEARCH** – No purchase obligation. Twiggers Booksearch – 01304 365511 booksearch@twiggers.com

**ARDIS BOOKS**. Fine books bought and sold. www.ardis.co.uk 01329 517724

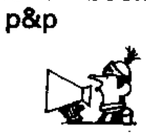
**ODD SHOES:** A novel by Alan Redman. A story of sex / dog-death / accountants / cheese sandwiches / lager / enemas / threesomes / Post-its and much more. www.alanredman.com or amazon.co.uk info@alanredman.com

**UNDERSTAND PROPERTY WEALTH** www.the-free-lunch.com

**NON-VANITY PUBLISHER** seeks COMEDY novels. Send 100w pitch, 500w sample (no attachments) to rgbsubmissions@yahoo.co.uk

**www.sacredcast.com** Esoteric books with up to 75% discount. FREE p&p

## EYE SELL



**OLD PERSIAN RUGS – mostly £100 – £3000. Shed not shop – telephone first. DESMOND NORTH, East Peckham, Kent. 01622 871353.**

**NEED A NEW HI-FI?** For anything from DVD to Minidisc, surround sound to CD – nip down to RICHER SOUNDS and pick up the lowest-priced gear in the UK... GUARANTEED! For a free bargain-packed catalogue, call 0845 1 300 200

**TELEPHONES. ANTIQUE**, Fun, Designer. Kiosks. Sold/Bought. www.telephonelines.net. 01242 583699.

**SOLAR-POWERED** car battery recharger – £21.99, including delivery. www.britishe co.com

**MARLBORO REDS** £1.65/20; Thai boxing shorts £8.95; Very Rude T-shirts £8.95; Video CDs £2.60; Satin-Polly ties £2.70; 100% silk ties £5.99; 23K gold chain (17") £87. sales eye@freeautobot.com

**HERBAL SMOKING MIX** (non tobacco) £5 p.p. Tobacco tin roller papers + instructions. £7.50 p.p. Erwin, PO Box 120, Newtownabbey

**STORE 12 PHONE NUMBERS** in one Sim Card legally. On line number switching, ideal foreign travel, low phone bills. Email cwh3004@attglobal.net for product details and pricing

**BUG DETECTOR** – find bugs planted in home, office, hotel, anywhere. Sophisticated but easy to use and only £89.99 including p&p. Cheques only, payable to Axelpark Limited. Reply Box 80628

**To submit your advert the easy way go to www.eyeadvertise.co.uk**

**TWO BLUE ADULT VIDEOS**: Best hardcore available, all types, fast delivery, free catalogue – tel: 07817 194356 Reply Box 80635

**JOHN LENNON'S 'EYE'** mosaic is now up for sale. lennoneye@yahoo.co.uk

**LOW COST DEALS** on Brand New Wheels – all manufacturers available. www.marmaladeshropshire.co.uk

**www.mongrelclothing.com** T-shirts IRONY SLAPPA NOTHING NAIVE MONGREL

**EYES:** No's 140 to 230 and 278 to 574 (27 missing) Reply Box 81115

**STATE OF THE ART** digital business telephone systems. 3-200 extensions, nick@nicomonline.com

**CHINA STYLES UK** – Unique gifts from the Far East. Get the China Style! www.chinastyles.co.uk

# EYE CARE

**MASSAGE THERAPY:** Take time to relax and indulge in a luxury full body massage. Tel: 020 7713 8531 www.remimassage.com

**DEEP, RELAXING** full body massage, private, sensual. Mobile: 07900 363 641 Knightsbridge / home / hotel visit also possible, open every day

**FROM ULTRA MED IT'S TRUE BLUE!** The amazing alternative to Viagra. No prescription necessary, 8 tablets for only £29.99 + p&p. Credit Card order line 0871 983 0363 www.ultrathrills.co.uk

**VIAGRA GENUINE PFIZER** tablets cheapest price guaranteed. paypill.com tel: 07050 139393

**ERECTION PERFECTION** by Euromed with you by noon tomorrow. 0701 071 8424 – www.viagib.com www.cialis-overnite.com

**DANISH TOUCH MASSAGE**; take a break from stress. Sloane Street. Tel: 07736 361150

**SEXUAL PROBLEMS?** Because we can help, please go to www.4passions.com and see our wide range of products. Or, free brochure from Barden International Ltd., P.O. Box 430, Sevenoaks TN13 3WX

# EYE TECH

**MY EMAIL ADDRESS** is trev@stapletonprice.co.uk Create your own email address from £30 p.a. 0800 083 0733

**A WEB TOBY!** Professional, friendly web design that lets you update your own site easily, for free: www.kenilweb.com

# EYE SAY

**PRIVATE EYE** Classified Advertising Manager, 1986 -2003 – CECILIA NICHOLSON (CEBoggis@aol.com) – thanks advertisers who sent her their greetings and good wishes, and hopes they continue to prosper in 2004 and the future

**www.smugbastardsatthebeeb.org.uk**

**MONMOUTH, BASTILLE DAY** – You looking at me, pal? Reply Box 81316

**THINK TV DRAMA IS DEAD?** www.thetvnews.net

# EYE WANT

**DO YOU HAVE** an addictive personality? For example, are you addicted to stealing, spending, risk-taking, law breaking, sex or gambling etc. If so, we would like to hear from you in confidence on 020 7258 6756. BBC2 is making a series of documentaries about people who are compulsively drawn to different types of behaviour. We would like to talk to people who are interested in sharing their experiences and who are trying to understand their behaviour.

# EYE NEED

**15K+ NEGATIVE EQUITY,** trapped any help appreciated. LloydsTSB 77-95-26 A/N 69416168

**PROSTATE CANCER VICTIM** seeks uplifting diversions. Likes writing and broadcasting. Reply Box 80592

**PLEASE HELP.** Struggling with debts, £15,000 needed. No family to ask. Reply Box 80596

**BANANAS!!** Mature graduate volunteering for Ecuadorian NGO seeks funds: Acc. 20978639 Sort-Code 20-32-00

**I DESPERATELY WANT** to start a recreation project for young people in Burkina Faso, West Africa. Need 30-50k to help start up. Many thanks. Nationwide 07-01-16 A/C 34094040

**GENUINE PLEA** from a drowning father who is trying to do the best for his children. Please help if you can. Thank you, sincerely. 20-87-94 90358754

**HELP DESPERATELY SOUGHT** from planning law barristers in application for judicial review against unjust National Parks planning decision. We are third party, limited funds, about to have quality of life destroyed. More information at law_student_9@hotmail.com

**POST-GRAD.** Can't pay rent, needs £800. Also, no money generally, living off rice. HSBC 41211889 40-38-08

**ATTRACTIVE LADY**, 40, seeks to raise funds. Legal and respectable propositions considered. Reply Box 80902

**SECOND YOUTH!** Seeking funds to embark on Rock 'n' Roll lifestyle. HBSO 80-05-16, 00302422

**SINGLE FATHER** facing eviction. Debts of £4500, desperate. Please help Halifax 11-03-45. 00448974

**I HAVE A DREAM.** Single mother has dreams of owning a small cottage, any help appreciated. Nationwide 07-01-16 A/N 20862211

**PLEASE HELP REDUCE** pensioner's escalating debt (£1,000). Heartfelt thanks. Barclays 209561/20957666

**MOONCLOCK:** Tidal-powered landmark project needs visionary benefactors. Contact@alunatime.org

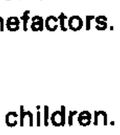
**NHS PHYSIOTHERAPIST**, four children. Income not sufficient for suitable house purchase in Brighton. Please consider helping. Reply Box 81321

**MAGIC MOLE MUSIC LTD** needs funding cheques or s.a.e. for details. Reply Box 81322

**F MEANS WELL** but needs cash to get back on line; X has not worked, I am unhappy here, affect change! A/N CO-OP Bank 089300/214876253

**MAD SCIENTIST,** British, resident in Italy, close to breakthrough, needs financial help. Tel/SMS 0039 380 506 4389

# EYE DRINK



**LANGUEDOC REDS.** Canet-Valette, Estanilles, Lancyre. Devigne Wines, 01938 553478 www.devignewines.co.uk

# EYE DINE

**DUCK CONFIT & FOIE GRAS** from S.W. France at everyday prices. Confit Direct, 01938 553478 www.confitdirect.co.uk

**BILL O'HAGAN** is Britain's 'Best Sausage Maker'. Visit his website: www.top sausages.com

# EYE LEARN

**BRAIN TRAINING.** For concentration, memory, clear thinking. Enjoyable classes / private lessons. Tel: 020 8374 3924

# EYE WEAR

**'CRAIC DEALER'** and 'Rehab is for Quitters' t-shirts. www.CraicDealer.com

# EYE VALENTINE

**TO TINA**: Three years on no custard, one rock and a wedding on the way. Lots of love from Seamus

**SOPHIE.** I'll be your mechanical man forever. Hurrah!

**YOU'RE MY LOVELY LINDY.** I am your fat boy fatty ooo eee ooo I love you

**KATE**: Eyes still moist in Bexleyheath. Love B.

# EYE LOVE

**LITERATE, FIT, ARTY** professional male, 40, WLTM slim, curvy female, 25-35ish. London/Midlands/North. Email cah0831@yahoo.co.uk

**LOVELY LADY**, 48, seeks warm, unattached intelligent (perhaps academic) male over 50 for LTR. Photo with letter appreciated. Reply Box 80634

**SINGLE MALE,** 43, seeks alluring female for excitement and shenanigans. Cheshire / north-west England. Email eyelovefun@aol.com or reply Box 80700

**YOUNG AT HEART,** early fifties, adventurous Sagittarian male, seeks woman for fun times together, including Continental sports car and motorcycle pillion trips. Reply Box 80724

**SENSITIVE, ARTICULATE,** genuine female, 32, seeks similar unattached male. ballet-tanzerine@danceart.net

**LOVELY, FIT,** 40-year-old bi lady would like to meet similar for fun and naughtiness. Based Surrey/Hants. 07747 023369

**EYE** No. 1098: Bloke, p.20 (but better looking) fancies girl on the right p.17 (Mid 30s). London for starters. Send Email address? Reply Box 80924

**MALE SEEKS FEMALE** for the more unusual things in life. Must nave good sense of humour be adventurous and unshockable. Tel: 07956 99732

**BEAUTIFUL EGGPLANT**, (29), seeks unattached monkey wrench for long conversations. Reply Box 81159

# EYE LIAISON

**SUGAR DADDY** seeks sugar babe London / Essex. Photo essential. Reply Box 79593

**BRUSSELS-BASED**, bored husband, looking for equally geographically disadvantaged bored wife for chats about British politics, good food, good wine, good fun, walks, the occasional film, and probably more. (I'm late 30's, 6ft, funny, reasonably fit and relatively good-looking.) Brussels or Waterloo. boredbrussels@yahoo.co.uk

**BEAUTIFUL, TALENTED** and very discreet 23-year-old girl seeks wealthy, generous, attached man for mutually beneficial relationship. Tel: 07969 574011 elsarivel@yahoo.co.uk

**KISS ME KATIE**. Fanciful Petruchio, 55, seeks tameable shrew. Reply Box 80719

**A PERFECTLY NORMAL WOMAN** would like to do this**** and that**** with a compatible man, aged 59 to 99. Reply Box 80791

**BARRISTER-TYPE**, busy and calm, wanted by world travelling lady of a certain age to do things you can't do alone! Reply Box 80793

**ARE YOU AN ATTRACTIVE,** mature woman who likes excitement? I am a very tall, confident guy in my late fifties. I have an idea for a great night out in London. I am generous, solvent, and prefer a smoker. Please contact me and I will tell you my idea. peter861@btinternet.com

**27-YEAR OLD,** London-based professional male, bored, WLTM pleasant, smart female, 23-35 for distractions. imbored_27@yahoo.co.uk

**EROTIC, MATURE MARRIED MAN,** working away from home, Thames Valley, seeks discreet lady for weekday wining and dining. Reply Box 81154

# EYE CONTACT

**ASIAN INTRODUCTIONS** Guaranteed. Suman Marriage Bureau – Established 1972. (ABIA). 0208 571 5145. www.suman-online.com

**SPEED DATING** – the new way to meet other professionals. 20+ three minute face-to face dates in 1 night Telephone 08702 430 935 www.speeddater.co.uk

**REGULAR ADULT PARTIES** daytime & evenings, luxury Central London locations, couples & singles welcome, call Gordon 07971 298111 limelight_club@lycos.com

**THAI CONNECTION** – Thailand's oldest agency. Over 650 marriages. Videos, brochure: 01582 481725.

**ATTACHED? SEEKING ROMANCE?** Call David at LOVINGLINKS 08456 440 919. Info line 0906 550 1361 (calls cost £1 a minute) – www.lovinglinks.co.uk. Discreet dating at the speed of email.

**RUSSIAN LADIES**, attractive and sincere, seek relationship/marriage. Meet many Russian ladies in Britain. Unlimited introductions. Excellent success rate. IFM 01708 478697 www.intromoscow.co.uk

**DATING LINE** 0906 752 6299* Live 1-2-1 Chat 0906 734 3206** Gay Chat 0906 952 6006* http://www.harmonypartners.co.uk PO Box 17 TN23 7YQ. Calls cost *75p/** £1/min from BT Landlines

**MEET ORIENTAL LADIES** in Britain for love, romance, etc. Tel: 0161 9983 669 / 0788 163 0007 – e-mail tararain bow@yahoo.co.uk

**BEST SINGLES MAGAZINE** in universe. Free details PTP(PE), P.O. Box 40, Minehead, TA24 5YS. Tel: 01643 709 509

**CHAT ROOM:** 25p/min 100+girls online 24hrs. RLF, im72hr 09062 765264

**LONESOME OXBRIDGE BLUES?** Why not meet somebody new at www.BluesMatch.com

**ADULT FUN, LISTEN IN.** £1.50/min BCM Box 4032 WC1N 3XX 09090 279004

**GENTLEMEN. OVER 50?** Feel 10 years younger? Great news! You are in great demand by our very attractive ladies – please call 0870 242 4212. www.attractivepartners.co.uk

**NOMOREFROGS.CO.UK** – Valentine's Day is nearly here – avoid the rush!

**ADDITIONS.** 'Attached' discreet loving agency for married people. Tel: 020 8905 3304 or 020 8958 9657

**ARE THERE ANY** Round Heeled Women like Jane Juska in Glasgow? I am still alive at 55 and would hope so. Private Eye works for me. Reply Box 80810

**DATE THROUGH FRIENDS** – a fresh approach to online dating – www.mates4dates.co.uk

**To submit your advert the easy way go to www.eyeadvertise.co.uk**

# Comic Greats

## Bob Newhart

### 24 Sketches!

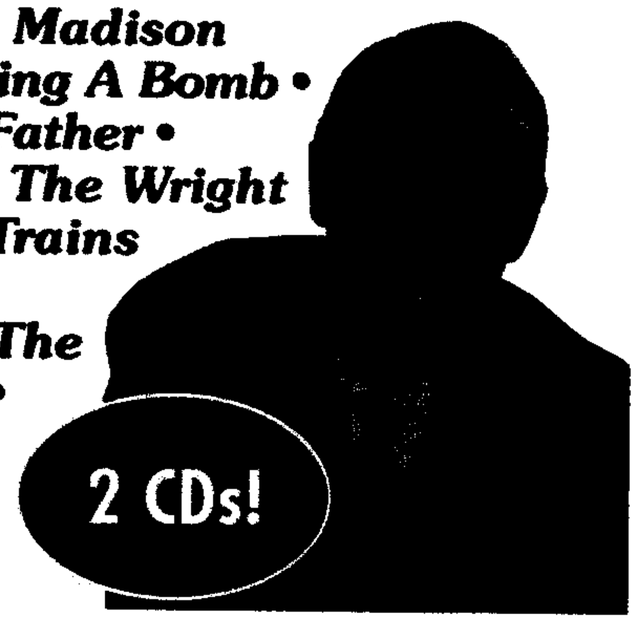
Bob Newhart is perhaps the only person in the world who can talk to himself on the phone without looking stupid...and everyone listens! This is the classic double CD anthology that is now available in the UK through this very special mail-order offer!

**Buy Both Get FREE P&P**

A comedian who is unique in his style and was loved throughout the many years of his television and radio appearances!

### 2 Fun - Filled CDs!

***The Driving Instructor • Ledge Psychology (The Woman On The Ledge) • Introducing Tobacco To Civilisation • Bus Drivers School • Retirement Party • Buying A House • Rocket Scientist • Abe Lincoln vs Madison Avenue • Defusing A Bomb • The Expectant Father • Merchandising The Wright Brothers • On Trains And Planes • The Cruise Of The U.S.S Codfish • The Siamese Cat • A Friend With A Dog...*** *and many more!*




## Woody Allen

### Stand-Up Comic

This collection has become a milestone in comedy routines. Long before he made films, Woody Allen played clarinet at Michael's Pub in Greenwich Village and tried his hand at stand-up. No one will make you laugh harder, while at the same time make serious comments about our current world. Woody's comedy is timeless. Seinfeld followed in these footsteps; but Woody always was the original!

From live albums no longer available comes this selection which has unearthed some of the most famous routines that to this day remain uniquely Woody Allen!

### 25 Recordings!

***The Moose • The Vodka Ad • The Great Renaldo • Mechanical Objects • Kidnapped • Brooklyn • Bullet In My Breast Pocket • My Grandfather • Pets • Unhappy Childhood • My Marriage • Down South • Second Marriage • Vegas • Eggs Benedict • The Army • The Police • A Love Story...*** *and many, many more!*

***100% Money Back Gaurantee!***

**Music & Memories**

**Music & Memories, Dept. M2839, Box 99, St. Austell, PL25 3YD.**
Goods are normally despatched within 10 days. Please allow 28 days before querying your order.

***www.goodmusic.co.uk***

**Music & Memories, (Dept. M2839),**
**Hays House, Box 99, St. Austell, PL25 3YD.**

Yes, please rush me what I have ticked below. I understand that I may return the CDs within 30 days for any reason and receive a full refund.

❒ **Bob Newhart**
2210C 2 CDs **£19.99** + £2.50 p&p = £22.49

❒ **Woody Allen**
2214C CD **£15.99** + £2.50 p&p = £18.49

❒ **Bob Newhart & Woody Allen**
X293C 3 CDs **£35.98** & Free p&p = £35.98

❒ Cheque/Postal Order enclosed for £ _____
made payable to **Music & Memories**.

❒ Charge My: Visa/MasterCard/American Express/Switch

Card No. _____

Signature _____

Start Date: _____ Exp. Date: _____ (Switch) Issue No: _____

Name _____
PLEASE USE BLOCK LETTERS

Address _____

_____ Postcode _____

If you would prefer not to receive information and offers from other organisations carefully selected by us, please tick box ❒

© Haysbridge (UK) Ltd. t/a Music & Memories Reg. No. 2771545.

LIFE INSURANCE

# £100,000 of life insurance for just £9.30 per month.

| £100,000 of Life Cover | |
|---|---|
| M&S | £13.25 |
| Abbey National Life | £13.21 |
| Eagle Star Direct | £12.70 |
| Nationwide Life | £11.70 |
| Virgin | £10.00 |

**0800 316 3166**

Anytime 8.00am to 8.00pm weekdays,
9.00am to 6.00pm weekends

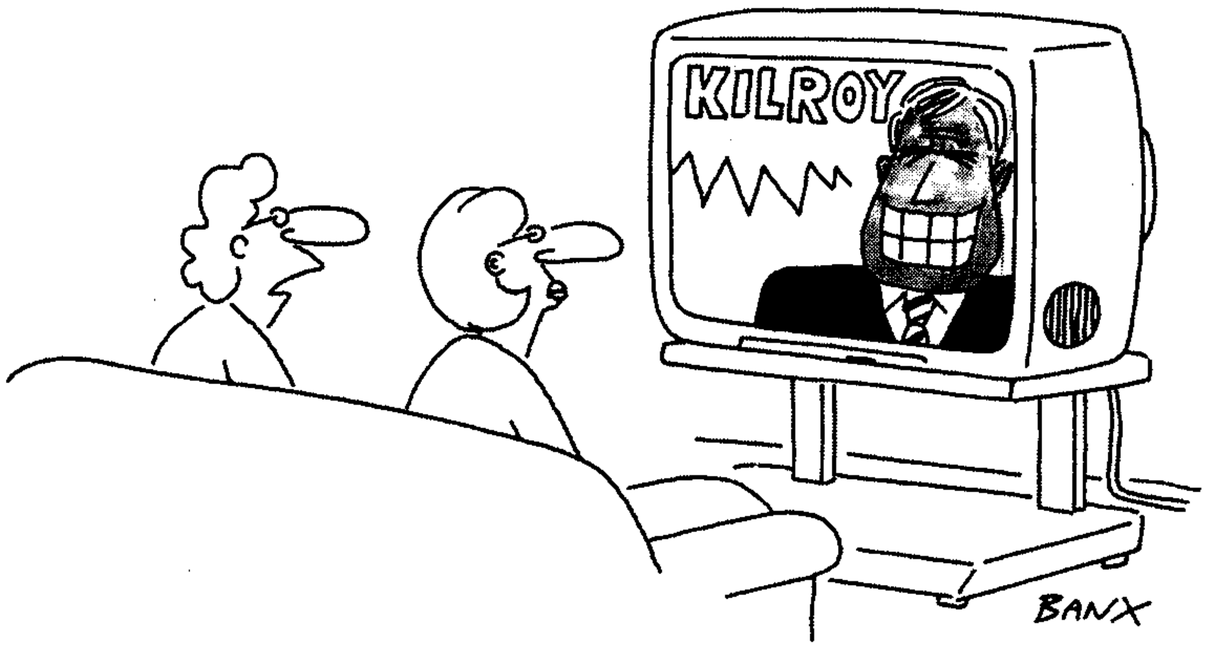
Please quote reference PE

## Unbeatable!

LifeSearch is the UK's leading life insurance broker and therefore best qualified to search the entire market to ensure that you get **the most appropriate cover at the lowest price possible!**

*Life***SEARCH**
We search. You save.

Premiums based on a monthly cost, with a leading insurer, for 20 year level term life cover for a non-smoking man aged 35 next birthday in normal health. Figures correct at September 2003.




*". . . and now he's had his backside tanned . . . "*

# wisdom

Everyone, they say, will have their 15 minutes of fame. Which makes our 95 years of consistent investment success look particularly healthy.

0800 082 81 80 | www.witan.com quoting ref. 13192

Witan investment trust

Henderson Global Investors is the name under which Henderson Global Investors Limited, Henderson Investment Funds Limited, Henderson Fund Management plc and Henderson Administration Limited (all authorised and regulated by the Financial Services Authority) provide investment products and services. We may record telephone calls for our mutual protection and to improve customer service. 4 Broadgate, London EC2M 2DA.

9 770032 888105 06>